

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { } ACTION { X } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION

School Board Staggered Terms

BACKGROUND: A summary of school divisions, with and without staggered terms, follows.
84 of 132 school divisions responded to a VSBA request on our behalf.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing on staggered terms for November 11, 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: A school board position regarding staggered terms is recommended.

Bath County Public Schools

Staggered Board Terms

9/26/14

At the September School Board meeting, Board member, Mr. Eddie Ryder, asked the superintendent to obtain information pertaining to staggered terms in other school divisions.

Gina Patterson, VSBA Executive Director, was contacted on September 5, 2014 regarding staggered board terms. The VSBA database does not track school divisions with staggered terms. On September 5, 2014, Ms. Patterson sent a mass email survey to all school divisions in the state asking clerks to respond directly to Bath County Schools.

Out of the 84 responses received, 59 currently have staggered terms and 25 school divisions do not have staggered terms.

Of the 59 clerks confirming their Boards have staggered terms, many different combinations are used to achieve staggered terms as listed below:

Examples:

- Board members are up for election at different times.
Elections are held every two, three or four years.
- Alternating year appointments by City Council for three year terms.
- Staggered terms coincide with terms of the Board of Supervisors.

Of the 25 school divisions who do not have staggered terms, one school division will begin staggered terms when their current term ends. Another school division confirmed Board discussion pertaining to the advantages of moving to staggered terms.

**VSBA Survey of School Divisions
September 2014**

Staggered Terms

Albemarle County	
Amelia County	3 terms end at the same time and the other two end two years later.
Amherst County	
Arlington County	
Bedford County	
Bland County	
Botetourt County	
Buena Vista City	
Carroll County	
Charlotte County	Three board members are up for re-election in 2018 and 4 are up for re-election in 2016.
Charlottesville City	
Chesapeake	5 board members one year and then four the next. Each term is four years.
Floyd County	
Fluvanna County	Our board members are elected at different times.
Franklin County	
Frederick County	
Fredericksburg City	4 seats elected for the same 4 yr term. 2 yrs later the 2 seats which are at-large representatives are elected.
Galax City	
Giles County	Two of our board members were up for election and next year, we will have 3 up for election.
Gloucester County	(7) elected Sch Board members that mirror our local BOS (4 expire on 12-31-2015 and 3 expire of 12-31-2017).
Halifax County	There is an election every two years for half of our members (members serve 4-year terms).
Hampton City	Four are elected one year and the other three are elected two years later.
Hanover County	
Henry County	
Hopewell City	
Isle of Wight County	Currenty we have two that expire in 2018 and three that expire in 2015.
King George County	Two up in the same year, 2 years later the other 3.
Louisa County	An election every two years.
Lunenburg	
Lynchburg City	Serve 3, 3-yr terms.
Madison County	Two one year and then two years later, the other three.

**VSBA Survey of School Divisions
September 2014**

Staggered Terms (con't.)

Manassas City	
Martinsville City	Members are appointed by City Council for three yr. terms.
Middlesex County	
Montgomery County	
Newport News	
Norfolk	
Northhampton County	Staggered terms coincide with terms of the BOS so that ea board member's term is the same as the elected repr. of their district.
Northumberland Co	
Orange County	Board terms all end on Dec 31. 3 Board terms end in 2015 and the rest are 2017.
Patrick County	Staggered terms for school board members which are the same as the BOS who also have staggered terms.
Pittsylvania County	
Portsmouth	
Radford City	3 one year and 2 the next year.
Rappahannock County	
Richmond Co.	
Rockbridge County	
Rockingham County	Three have terms ending in 2015 and two have terms ending in 2017.
Russell County	
Salem City	Salem City's terms are staggered. 3 Year Terms
Shenandoah County	
Staunton City	Three of our six School Board members up for reelection every other year -- on even years
Suffolk County	7 Brd members. (4) seats are in the same election yr., with the election yr of the other 3 being 2 yrs. later.
Virginia Beach City	11 seats with 4 yr terms: 6 seats up for election 2014 commencing on Jan 1, 2015; remaining 5 seats up for election in 2016
West Point	
Winchester City	
Wise County	
Wythe County	Four are elected the same year and the three others two years later.
York County	

59 School Divisions

**VSBA Survey of School Divisions
September 2014**

Divisions who do not have Staggered Terms

Alexandria City	Board discussion about the advantages of moving to staggered. All terms currently expire Dec 31, 2015.
Augusta County	Augusta County will begin staggered terms after this term ends.
Brunswick County	
Buckingham County	
Caroline County	
Charles City	
Chesterfield County	Sch Brd and BOS do not have staggered terms; all up for election/re-election at the same time.
Clarke County	
Cumberland County	
Dickenson County	All board terms end at the same time.
Fairfax City	
Fairfax County	
Goochland County	Had a complete turnover of the Board at the last election.
Henrico County	
Highland County	
Manassas City	
Mecklenburg County	
Nottoway County	
Powhatan County	All of our school board member terms end at the same time.
Prince George County	
Prince William	
Pulaski County	
Richmond City	
Surry County	
Wmsburg-James City	

25 School Divisions