

Virginia PTA

Power Partners

Superintendent

2024-2025



**Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent, Alexandria City Public Schools
Northern Region, Alexandria City Council of PTA/PTSAs**

Dr. Kay-Wyatt has gone above and beyond to build relationships between parents and the school, including through her work with the PTA. She can often be found at PTA events from Back to School picnics to spring fun runs and has made a dedicated effort to attend each school's PTA meeting to directly hear feedback and concerns from parents. Dr. Kay-Wyatt's leadership philosophy is rooted in collaboration, data-driven decision making, and a relentless commitment to student success. She has been an outspoken advocate regarding the problems with the new accountability testing system, while also offering constructive and realistic options to improve accountability. Dr. Kay-Wyatt created videos to help families understand the SOL and MAP assessment system, and has engaged students in their success distributing #TitansRising friendship bracelets and pencils. Dr. Kay-Wyatt has centered communication as a cornerstone of her work, ensuring that communications from the school division and PTA are accessible in many languages. Her bi-weekly meetings with the PTA Council and local PTA Presidents were instrumental in staying connected to family concerns through the roll-out of new weapons screening equipment. She strongly supported the Alexandria City Council PTA Safety Forum, and Substance Use Awareness Workshops in multiple languages. Dr. Kay-Wyatt's 'Slices with the Supe' program enables her to directly hear from 5th-8th grade students over a pizza lunch, and quarterly Student Advisory Council meetings with 9th-12th grade students keeps her connected to current student concerns. Dr. Kay-Wyatt is committed to creating a safe, caring, and inclusive environment where students feel connected, supported and respected and families feel welcome and valued.



**Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent, Staunton Public Schools
Blue Ridge Region, Staunton**

Dr. Smith has consistently been a reliable partner to PTA, showcasing a strong dedication to enhancing family involvement within the Staunton school community. Dr. Smith's support—whether it be presenting awards, celebrating student achievements, or recognizing the dedicated work of PTA volunteers reinforces the vital connection between school leadership and families, making all stakeholders feel valued and heard. Dr. Smith has fostered a culture of gratitude and collaboration, making it clear that the role of families in education is both valued and essential which has creating a more engaged and supportive community for all. One of Dr. Smith's significant contributions is the Kindness Matters initiative, a district-wide program that acknowledges and celebrates acts of kindness among students and staff. Each month, individuals who exemplify compassion, respect, and community spirit are honored, reinforcing a culture where kindness is both valued and expected. This initiative has not only encouraged students to lead with empathy but has also deepened connections between families and schools, as parents take pride in seeing their children recognized for their positive impact.

Virginia PTA *Power Partners* Principals

2024-2025



Dr. Edward Van Dyke, Principal, T. Ryland Sanford Elementary
Tidewater Region, Newport News Council of PTA/PTSA's

Dr. Edward Van Dyke has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to fostering meaningful connections between families and our school community. Through his leadership, he has made parent engagement a priority—not just in word, but in action. He goes above and beyond to ensure every family feels welcomed, heard, and valued, creating a school culture where collaboration and inclusivity thrive. From his attendance at PTA meetings and supporting initiatives, to offering thoughtful guidance and encouragement, he has made it clear that the PTA is not a separate entity, but a true partner in supporting our students. He listens to parent voices, welcomes feedback, and actively works to remove barriers that may keep families from engaging. Dr. Van Dyke leads with kindness, authenticity, and a genuine belief that strong family-school partnerships create stronger student outcomes.



Mr. Mark Beckett, Principal, Chickahominey Middle School
Central Region, Hanover County Council of PTA/PTA's

Beckett has fostered a remarkably inclusive atmosphere, as shown by the involvement of 18 parents on the PTA board, alongside school staff representatives. His dedication to enhancing student experiences is reflected in the extensive calendar of family engagement opportunities established during his leadership. This academic year alone, Mr. Beckett has facilitated 13 diverse community events. He consistently displays innovative leadership by actively pursuing opportunities that strengthen the educational community. Mr. Beckett has developed a thoughtful and effective approach to create a space where parental involvement is not just welcomed but actively promoted throughout the academic year. His commitment to maintaining open lines of communication and nurturing an inclusive campus environment ensures that parents feel valued as vital partners in the educational journey.



Mr. Quetin Hicks, Principal, Western Branch High School
Tidewater Region, Chesapeake Council of PTA/PTSA's

Mr. Hicks recognizes that the school serves as an extension of the home. Collaborating closely with the PTSA, he ensures that there are open lines of communication, enabling parents to receive consistent updates from multiple sources. To facilitate this connection, the school hosts open houses twice a year. These events provide parents with the chance to meet their child's teachers, hear expectations firsthand, and gather vital information about the school year. Mr. Hicks has been a staunch advocate for PTSA's involvement in various school-wide events including the open houses. His commitment to collaboration, and the value he places on the relationships he nurtures with parents, students, and staff has led to an impressive rise in faculty membership, soaring from less than half to 100%. With his unwavering support, our school and the PTSA are enjoying a record-breaking year of achievement and growth.