



# Virginia School for the Deaf Alumni Association (VSDAA)



We do have a solution for you to consider that may prove to be a win-win. We have a proposal that we believe will accomplish the very purpose you are intending without removing the Mascot of the Cardinal. We propose that the School create an emblem, or a crest if you will, that will represent the unified school. We also propose that the Blind department create a new mascot to represent their department, and then the said crest or emblem shall incorporate elements of the school such as the two mascots and even the Acorn, reminiscent of the acorns that adorn the gates to the campus. That said Emblem can become representative of Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind on any official documents, correspondence, insignia and so forth. By creating and utilizing the crest, or emblem, we will be sending a message that it is perfectly all right to be different and that being different can add strengths to the society as a whole in many ways. We believe creating a crest or emblem as the School's official seal will send that message to the parents, to the students, to the alumni, and to each other.

Each department can retain their proud identities and pride. We think this proposal will demonstrate the unification intended by our name- Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.

We have confidence that you will consider this proposal seriously.

Thank you.

The Cardinals of VSDB

Whereas Superintendent Patricia Trice's "unified" plan was to unify the Deaf and Blind Departments through a specific timeline last fall was changed recently;

Whereas Superintendent Patricia Trice was not transparent and displaying neutrality towards the stakeholders of VSDB as originally planned;

Whereas the consultants were handpicked by Superintendent Patricia Trice;

Whereas the blind department has to remove their mascot of "Chiefs" to a new mascot due to the fact that it is not politically correct; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, the Virginia School for the Deaf Alumni Association:

1. urges the Board of Visitors to reassess the Unified School plan's current timeline and compare it to the earlier timeline;
2. urges the Board of Visitors to ensure that neutrality and transparency is displayed throughout the whole campus which includes the teachers, staff, and students as well as the stakeholders which include the alumni and parents;
3. urges the Board of Visitors to instruct the VSDB Foundation to remove the current consultants and search for and appoint consultants that specialize in Deaf, Deafblind and Blind education;
4. urges the Board of Visitors to allow the Blind Department to choose their own mascot fully and freely as it is their rights to do so;
5. urges the Board of Visitors to undertake these resolutions.

We, the Virginia School for the Deaf Alumni Association, express a vote of no confidence in the leadership of our current superintendent.

Respectfully,

VSDAA President

VSDAA Board