

HOT TOPICS

January 29, 2025

Last night, your colleagues showed up at the VCS Board meeting to share the Truth About Testing. Elementary, Middle, and High Schools were represented by the VUE members in attendance and the advocates who spoke during public participation. Concerns included the over emphasis on collecting data, the negative impacts to instructional time, the amount of time that certain students spend testing, test apathy resulting in the “Christmas tree” approach, and the stress and anxiety over testing creates for our students.

You can watch public participation [here](#).

In a twist of irony, prior to public participation, three district officials pontificated on the requirements for graduation. The presentation included a laundry list of assessments, alternative and otherwise, that can be used as concordant scores for students to graduate with a standard diploma. To be clear, we understand the value of a high school diploma, however, we also understand the impacts to learning that testing, retesting, boot camps, and test prep have on a student’s ability to learn the curriculum. Each day or class period that a student spends retesting or prepping for a test is one less opportunity to learn the current content.

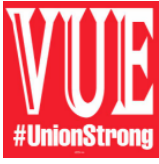
After an excruciating 97 minutes spent discussing the graduation requirements, Richard Milburn Academy, the new Graduation Academies offered by VCS, and individual opinions about all things graduation; the board took a break before allowing public participation.

Public participation can be viewed [here](#).

WHATS NEXT?

What do you think would happen if you shared your “Truth About Testing” with the members of the board? The Superintendent has directed the REA Department staff to dig into this issue, so now is the time to let the board know the real impacts of over testing in our schools and classrooms. The REA Department will share their feedback, adjustments that have been made to testing, and potential adjustments for next year at an upcoming board meeting.

We are asking that you email the members of the board from your personal email account, and share the impacts of the VBAs, DIAs, I-Ready, Unit, Chapter, and PM assessments on you and your students. The members of the board deserve to hear directly from YOU so that they can be fully informed from those who administer and proctor these tests. Your voice should be the loudest on this issue. To quote Board Chair Jamie Haynes, “tests don’t teach children.” To listen to her comments in full, please click [here](#).



The email addresses for the board members are listed below. We ask that you send your email no later than Monday. We need to move quickly on this issue to make it a priority for the board members.

As always, we ask that you tell the truth and remain professional. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office at 386-238-1605. Thank you.

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Mr. Ruben Colon - rcolon@volusia.k12.fl.us

Mrs. Donna Brosemer - dbroseme@volusia.k12.fl.us

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In Solidarity,

Elizabeth