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YCSD Chief Financial Officer Honored with State Award

On Thursday, May 24, 2018, William Bowen, York County School Division's Chief Financial Officer, was named the Virginia Association of Schools Business Officials (VASBO) Cardinal Award winner for 2018. The award, the organization's premier annual recognition, recognizes individuals who exemplify professionalism, leadership and innovation in the field of school business management.

"It is an honor to be recognized by VASBO, an organization of my peers from across the state who understand and experience the same daily challenges we face here in York County," said Mr. Bowen. "It's important that I also recognize the dedicated and talented YCSD finance team, our building and division leaders, and our supportive School Board members."

While having only served as the CFO since July 2017, Mr. Bowen's impact on the division's financial operations has been significant. During the 2017-18 school year, he facilitated a new budget process that resulted in the division's \$139.9 million budget being fully funded by the county. He worked closely with principals and our community throughout the budget development cycle to identify priorities and maximize funding that directly benefits classroom instruction. As a result of these efforts, school administrators have greater flexibility to make decisions for their students' specific needs.

In addition to overhauling the budget process, Mr. Bowen has also implemented a business approach that has not only improved the efficiency of the finance department, but has resulted in improved operations across the division. He recommended implementing a new online electronic library for parent/student forms and expanded the menu of fees that can be paid online to include field trips. Additionally, he recommended a change in banking services which will save the school division \$20,000 per year.

"Bill Bowen brings more to the table than just serving as the division financial executive," said Dr. Victor Shandor, division superintendent. "He works with staff to solve problems and provides sound advice in regards to all aspects of the division's operations to do what is best for our students. His greatest strength is his ability to establish and maintain relationships by demonstrating responsible stewardship and transparency of taxpayer funds."

Mr. Bowen has more than 28 years of experience in the field of finance, with the last ten years of service in public education. He has also supported his peers through various roles in VASBO - past president (2016), treasurer (2014) and director (2011-13).

