



*Thank you for attending today's webinar!
We will be starting soon. If you have any questions,
please ask them in the zoom chat.
Enjoy!*

WHAT WORKS:
WORKING TO
PROMOTE
EQUITY IN
RURAL
DISTRICTS

JUNE 17, 2020

10 AM EST-

11AM EST

Forward from Valerie Truesdale, Ph.D.



Valerie Joined **AASA** early in 2019 as an assistant executive director responsible for guiding leadership development services and programs. With years of experience in the superintendency and roles in instructional technology, she knows that [AASA's Leadership Network](#) can be a substantial resource for school leaders trying to keep pace with the rapidly changing delivery of K-12 education.

Panelist/Presenter:

Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, Division Superintendent, Southampton County Public Schools



A native of the Mississippi Delta, Gwendolyn attended both rural & inner-city schools and has resided in communities that reflect both. Gwendolyn currently serves as Division Superintendent for Southampton County Public School Division, a rural school division in Courtland, Virginia, where she has served for four years. Prior to accepting a superintendency in Virginia, Gwendolyn was superintendent in Mississippi for 10 years in a rural community.

Gwendolyn is a leader in STEM/STEAM education. She serves as the Co-Chair of the AASA STEM Leadership Consortia and is a graduate of the AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendent's Academy. Through her vision for technological excellence, her school division became the first Computer Science Immersion school division in the region with the implementation for Coding for all elementary students and subsequently middle school students. Students have access to iPads, laptops, desktops, and 3-D printers to use within the classroom and for access to content and programs outside of the instructional day. Students explore and set their imaginations free in the division makerspaces. Internet access is provided to students at home through Kajeet to provide a level playing field for all.

At the secondary level, the division curriculum offers Industrial Technology, Engineering Design, Intro to Technology, Electricity I, II, & III, Computer Applications, Graphic Design, Audio Engineering, Welding, Photojournalism, Intro to Game Design and Development, internships, job shadowing, the use of green screens, and many more STEM/STEAM classes and opportunities. The division is advancing the curriculum with newly added courses in Cybersecurity, Health Sciences, Robotics, App Development, Career Investigation, the use of Drones in STEM classes, Podcasters and utilizes partnerships with Camp Community College and Virtual Virginia.

As a result of her vision and implementation of technology education, Gwendolyn received the Governor's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Education in 2017. Additionally, due to her dedication to equitable access and opportunities for all children, the school division has been awarded a grant to participate in a pilot program on Equity in Public Education through the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports.

Gwendolyn has been a member of the education community for nearly 25 years. She attended Mississippi Delta Community College, Mississippi University for Women for her undergraduate degree in microbiology & minor in chemistry, Delta State University where she obtained her master's degree in natural science and education specialist degree. She received her Ph.D. from Mississippi State University in Education and Administration.

Panelist/Presenter:

Dan Leffingwell, Superintendent, Noble Local Schools



Dan is the Superintendent of Noble Local Schools, located in Sarahsville. During his time in this role(7 years), he has created an atmosphere of continuous improvement within the district while increasing opportunities for students through a “shared services” approach. Noble Local Schools served as the lead district in conjunction with Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center to obtain Straight A grant funds to support a transportation efficiency project and also partnered with Battelle for Kids on another Straight A project to create and share CCP courses.

As a result, the Noble Local School District has worked tirelessly to create hope, access, and opportunities for ALL students in this rural district (289 sq miles without a stoplight).The district is now a branch campus for Zane State college, offering in excess of 110 semester hours of college credit on their Sarahsville campus, PreK offerings have been expanded serving 19 students in 2013 to now serving 120, and ALL students have access, and are engaged in robust STEM activities preparing them for a career of their choice. The Noble Local School District recently received the Ohio Department of Education's STEM designation, and is the only school in the region to have obtained this.

During his nearly 30-year career in education, Dan has served as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent, providing an experienced perspective on district operations. Dan is an active member of CORAS (Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools), Ohio Appalachian Collaborative, serves as Director of OSRC (Ohio Small Rural Collaborative), JASON Learning STEM consortium, SOAR collaborative, and also serves as board president on the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Control, and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. Dan graduated from Marietta College with a BA in English (1988) and earned his MA in Educational Leadership from Ohio University in 2000.

Panelist/Presenter:

Jim Mahoney, former CEO of Battelle for Kids

A long-time educator and entrepreneur, Jim Mahoney has dedicated his life to bettering educational opportunities for all students, serving as a county superintendent, superintendent, principal, and teacher, as well as an adjunct professor at several Ohio universities.





Introduction to the topic by Jim Mahoney

Unique challenges and opportunities
facing rural districts



Introduction to the districts

Gwendolyn Shannon

Southampton County Public Schools

Overview of Southampton County Public Schools

1 High School-Southampton High School

1 Middle School - Southampton Middle School

4 Elementary Schools-Capron Elementary School, Meherrin Elementary School, Nottoway Elementary School, & Riverdale Elementary School

1 Career and Technical Center-Southampton Career & Technical Center

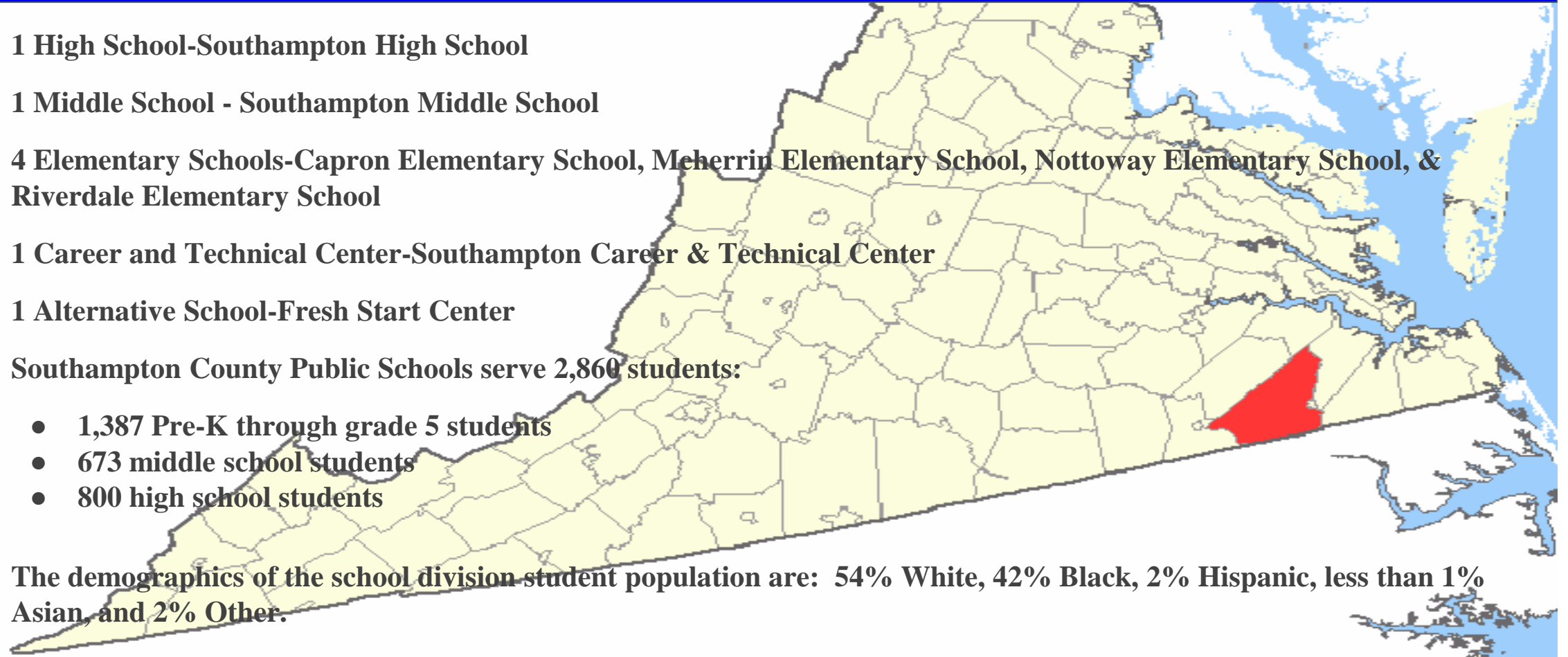
1 Alternative School-Fresh Start Center

Southampton County Public Schools serve 2,860 students:

- 1,387 Pre-K through grade 5 students
- 673 middle school students
- 800 high school students

The demographics of the school division student population are: 54% White, 42% Black, 2% Hispanic, less than 1% Asian, and 2% Other.

52% of students are eligible for free or reduced meals.





Introduction to the districts

Dan Leffingwell

Noble Local Schools

Noble Local Schools Sarahsville, Ohio

Total Enrollment: 1000

District size: 289 square miles

Total Economically Disadvantaged: 53%

Unemployment rate: 6.4%

[Google Earth](#)





Focus Question One:

How have you been able to focus on Equity in your district despite limited resources?



Focus Question Two:

How do you create a culture of Equity of Hope, Access and Opportunity in a rural setting and during a pandemic?

Lightning round!

What is the one
practice or idea that
you would love to take?



Focus Question Three:

How do you personalize learning in a rural district, especially in a time of necessary remote learning?



Focus Question Four:

Looking forward for our students' career options, we know that we have to customize educational offerings to meet needs of employers. How have you done that in your district?

Noble Local School District is Future Ready!



Questions or Comments?



Dr.
Gwendolyn Shannon,
Division Superintendent,
Southampton County
Public Schools



Jim Mahoney,
former CEO of
Battelle for Kids



Dan Leffingwell,
Superintendent,
Noble Local
Schools



**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S
WEBINAR!**

**WE URGE YOU TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER VIA
LINKEDIN, TWITTER, EMAIL, PHONE~
INVESTING IN RELATIONSHIPS PAYS HUGE DIVIDEND**

Mission:



The NLSD works to increase ACCESS, EQUITY, OPPORTUNITIES and HOPE within *a culture of continuous improvement where ALL staff and students are provided opportunities for success*

We recognize possibilities and seek solutions!

Help Students Find Their Why?

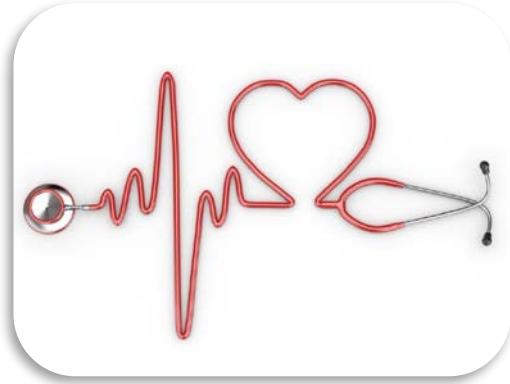
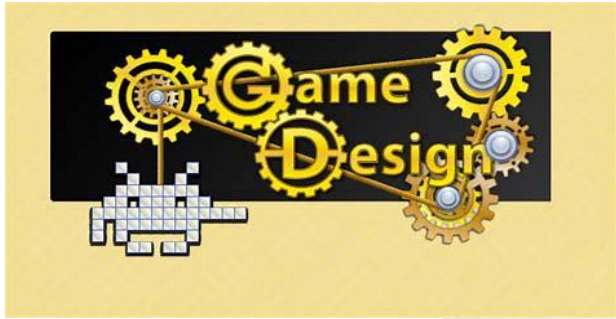
Utilizing a 55 person business advisory we link student interests and local workforce needs helping all students enroll, enlist, and employ

Future Ready Zep

- Provide individual graduation plans for every student.
- All roads lead to a J-O-B, 90% of which are STEM related
- Personalized learning within major pathways including but not limited to: advanced manufacturing, agriculture, medical, engineering, technology, etc.
- STEM culture where students think critically and work collaboratively to problem solve
- Provide students and staff with opportunities to grow as leaders

Noble Local recently received Ohio STEM designation for all grade levels in May 2020

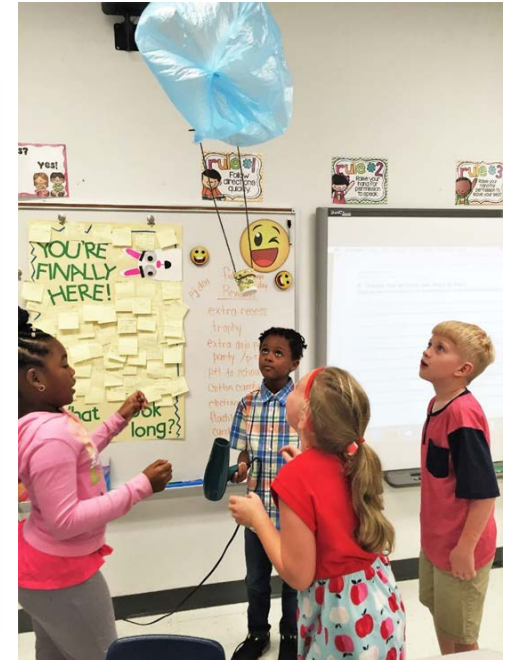
***Preparing students with transferable skills,
doesn't just prepare them for something, it
prepares them for anything. - Dan Leffingwell (Supt)***



Southampton County Public Schools



Southampton County Public Schools affords educators and students access to technology and programs that are on the cutting edge of teaching and learning



The school division recognizes that technology is an ever-changing, progressive vehicle and even though funds are limited, creativity is never limited. Powerful, futuristic minds generate methods of providing technological and STEM opportunities for all students and staff.

Expanding Excellence Every Day for Every Student

All students have a right to an education _____ that helps them realize
their greatest potential _____. This right **should not be affected by**
geographic location, family income, disability, language, race,
or background _____. Technology can help to expand opportunities
for students that may not be available to them within the
bounds of their physical classrooms.

