

# OPINION

## Career superintendent

We don't need a rock star, Wonder Woman or Superman, or the embodiment of the Second Coming for our next school superintendent. We need longevity.

Williamsburg-James City County is a "stepping stone" school division: 10,000 students, 16 school buildings and a \$110 million budget. WJC is not Fairfax County or Loudon County, but it's certainly a resume builder for the candidate looking to move into that size or a state superintendence.

That's not the candidate we need.

The candidate we need foremost is a manager with a financial background and strong communication ability who wants to be invested in the community. Williamsburg and environs are an attractive place to live and raise children.

Shouldn't we seek a candidate who would like to make a *career* of WJC Schools, and avoid seeking a candidate to whom WJC is a reference on a resume?

To assess the inherent value of stability and continuity, we have to look no farther than York County Schools. One would be hard pressed to come up with a major incident in York Schools that has generated the amount of recrimination and anonymous comment as has arisen over redistricting, D.J. Montague and James Blair repurposing.

I believe the difference is attributable to the fact that until Superintendent Staples' retirement, York Schools enjoyed over 20 years of consistent leadership under a superintendent who lived in and understood the needs of his community. WJC deserves that kind of consistent leadership.

Where is our Steven Staples?

Richard F. Locke  
James City



### LETTERS