

Virginia Board of Education – June 2020 Meeting Update

On June 17th and 18th, the [Virginia Board of Education \(VBOE\)](#) met virtually for their scheduled special committee work session and regular business meeting. Video stream of the meeting can be found [here](#). The Virginia School Boards Association does our best to give you a concise summary of the relevant aspects of the meeting. We encourage you and your superintendent to delve deep into this information to better understand how it will impact your school division. Additionally, we welcome any feedback that you may wish to provide. If you have any questions, concerns, or compliments for the Board, please send them to me at jason@vsba.org. You are a vital part of this conversation, and we may wish to share your feedback at the next VBOE meeting on July 22-23, 2020.

Special Committee Wednesday Work Session

On June 17, 2020, Board President Dan Gecker gaveled the Wednesday Special Committee Work Session to order and explained the purpose for the working group. Board member, Dr. Keisha Pexton, will chair the Special Committee to review the Standards of Accreditation. President Gecker turned the meeting of the Special Committee over to Dr. Pexton to walk the Board through the afternoon's tasks.

Dr. Pexton proceeded to ask Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment, Accountability and ESEA Programs and Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna, Director of Research, Virginia Department of Education (VDoE) to provide a history of Virginia's Standards of Accreditation (SoA). A copy of the presentation can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

With the presentation and discussion concluded, Dr. Pexton adjourned the work session of the special committee.

Board Business Session

On Thursday June 18, 2020, the Board convened for their [regular business meeting](#). Board President Dan Gecker called the virtual business session to order and asked for approval of the minutes from the May business meeting and June Executive Session. Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, the minutes were approved by a roll call vote. President Gecker acknowledged Board member Diane Atkinson and her time on the Board. Mrs. Atkinson will be leaving the Board at the conclusion of the June meeting.

With approval of the minutes, the Board proceeded to review the following items on the Consent Agenda: [Item A- Final Review of Division-level Memorandum of Understanding for Danville City Public Schools](#), [Item B- Division-level Memorandum of Understanding for Prince Edward County Public Schools](#), and [Item C- Final Review of the Proposed Suicide Prevention Guidelines \(Item C- Attachment A\) \(Item C- Attachment B\)](#) and [Item D- Final Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board of Education Advisory Committees](#).

Following approval of the Consent Agenda by roll call vote, the Board moved to its Action/Discussion Items.

[Item E- Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure Recommendation to Establish an Economics and Personal Finance \(Add-on\) Endorsement in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*](#). Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent,

Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Department of Education (VDoE), presented this Item to the Board. Mrs. Pitts stated that currently, no specific endorsement has been established in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* to teach courses in economics and personal finance. Teachers holding valid Virginia licenses with endorsements in specific areas of agricultural education, business and information technology, family and consumer sciences, history and social science, marketing, and mathematics may teach the courses. The regulatory action (standard procedure) is to establish an add-on endorsement to teach economics and personal finance. The add-on endorsement will expand the number of teachers who may teach economics and personal finance. This initiative supports the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan to recruit, develop, and retain well-prepared and skilled teachers.

A workgroup was established, and proposed regulations were presented to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure. The Advisory Board is proposing requirements to establish the Economics and Personal Finance (Add-on Endorsement), including a timeline to implement the add-on endorsement.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's following recommendations regarding establishing an Economics and Personal Finance (Add-on Endorsement) with the highlighted revisions in the proposed *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*:

1. the timeline to allow teachers to be grandfathered and meet requirements;
2. requirements in the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*; and
3. requirements in the *Licensure Regulations for Instructional Personnel* with the revisions highlighted below:

8VAC20-23-XXX. Economics and Personal Finance (Add-On Endorsement).

Endorsement requirements. The candidate shall have:

1. Earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and hold a license (Collegiate Professional License, Postgraduate Professional License, or a Provisional License leading to a Collegiate Professional or Postgraduate Professional License) issued by the Virginia Board of Education with a teaching endorsement; and
2. Completed an approved teacher preparation program in economics and personal finance (add-on endorsement); or completed the following requirements:
 - a. Six semester hours of economics or Three semester hours of economics and or a non-college credit institute in economics. The non-college credit institute in economics must be a minimum of 45 clock hours and offered by a Virginia school division or a regionally accredited college or university. The institute must include the economics content set forth in the *Virginia Standards of Learning* for economics and personal finance and be approved by the Department of Education; and

b. Six semester hours of economics or Three semester hours of personal finance and or a non-college credit institute in finance. The non-college credit institution in finance must be a minimum of 45 clock hours and offered by a Virginia school division or a regionally accredited college or university. The institute must include the personal finance content set forth in the Standards of Learning for economics and personal finance and be approved by the Department of Education.

After discussion and questioning by Board members, Mrs. Anne Holton offered an amendment to the Superintendent's recommendation regarding item E 2a to change three hours to six hours and to approve the recommendations. President Gecker asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as amended. The motion to approve the recommendations as amended was approved by a 4-3 vote.

[Item F](#)- Final Review of Revisions to Emergency Guidelines for Locally Awarded Verified Credits due to COVID-19 ([Item F- Attachment A-B](#)). Item F was presented by Dr. Leslie Sale, Director of Policy, VDoE. Dr. Sale explained that on March 23, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam ordered that all K-12 schools close for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19. In response to the extended closures, the Superintendent of Public Instruction waived the requirement that school divisions administer Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course assessments for the spring 2020 term and suspended the spring 2020 SOL administration window. Students who were enrolled in high school credit-bearing courses at the time of the closures were unable to earn the associated verified credit, if applicable, through a SOL end-of-course assessments. Students who had been previously enrolled in an eligible course and at the time, did not pass the associated SOL end-of-course assessment, were also unable to test for the second time before being eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit.

The Board of Education's *Regulations Establishing Standards for the Accreditation of Public Schools* - or Standards of Accreditation - establish multiple pathways for earning a verified credit, including a passing score on the associated SOL assessment. Alternatively, there is the option for students meeting certain conditions to use the locally-awarded verified credit process. As established in the Standards of Accreditation, a prerequisite for a locally-awarded verified credit is that the student must have attempted, unsuccessfully, to pass the corresponding SOL. The Board of Education's *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards For Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* further states that the student must have been unable to pass the corresponding SOL at least twice before being eligible for a locally-awarded verified credit.

The revised guidelines extend the flexibility provided originally in the *Emergency Guidelines for Locally Awarded Verified Credits* to students who had earned a standard credit in a course prior to spring 2020 and intended to sit for an SOL end-of-course assessment for a verified credit during the 2020 spring test administration. Changes to the guidelines still promote student accountability but recognize that these unprecedented circumstances may have impeded a student's ability to earn a verified credit or access the locally-awarded verified credit option.

The revised guidelines supplement the *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards For Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*. The latter

document as well as the Standards of Accreditation remain in effect for the purpose of awarding locally-awarded verified credits for students who do not meet the exemption criteria.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the revised *Emergency Guidelines for Locally Awarded Verified Credits* for immediate implementation.

Following the presentation, President Gecker asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A motion was made and properly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Item G- First Review of Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure Recommendations to Approve Undergraduate Education Endorsement Programs at Virginia Colleges and Universities. Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure, VDoE, presented Item G to the Board. Mrs. Pitts explained that House Bill 1125 and Senate Bills 76 and 349 of the 2018 General Assembly amended §22.1-298 of the *Code of Virginia* to allow institutions of education to offer undergraduate degrees/majors in “education.”

§ [22.1-298.2](#). Regulations governing education preparation programs.

A. As used in this section:

...*"Education preparation program" includes four-year bachelor's degree programs in teacher education.*

In response to the legislation, colleges and universities were provided timelines to submit undergraduate education programs to the Virginia Department of Education (VDoE), and for public institutions, to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Content specialists conducted a thorough review of the education endorsement programs, verifying that the program endorsement competencies set forth in the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* were addressed in the matrices and syllabi. Feedback was provided to the colleges and universities, and revisions were made, as needed.

On May 19, 2020, SCHEV approved degrees and majors requested by the public institutions for undergraduate education programs. On June 4, 2020, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) approved recommendations to the Board of Education for the approval of 71 undergraduate teacher education programs.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendations to approve the undergraduate education preparation programs.

Following the presentation, President Gecker announced Board member Atkinson would be recusing herself on voting on the entire item and that Board member Dr. Jamelle Wilson would be recusing as to the University of Richmond. A motion was made to approve the recommendation minus the University of Richmond. A motion was made and properly seconded to waive first review and approve the recommendations. The motion carried unanimously via roll call vote. A second motion was made to waive first review of the recommendations and approve the recommendation regarding the University of Richmond. The motion was properly seconded.

The motion to approve the recommendation regarding the University of Richmond carried unanimously via roll call vote.

With all Action/Discussion items having been resolved, the Board proceeded to hear presentations and written reports.

[Item H](#)- **Update on Early Childhood Education.**

[Item I](#)- **View from Here: State-level Descriptive Analyses of the 2019 Virginia Working Conditions Surveys.**

[Item J](#)- **Written Report on Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by Recognition and Rewards for School and Division Accountability (8VAC20-131-410).**

[Item K](#)- **Written Report on State Regulatory and Statutory Waivers and Relief Measures Pursuant to Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly.**

Following presentations and reports, Board President Gecker asked if any members wished to share news of interest or react to current events. Board members addressed the topic of the reopening of school and thanked VDoE staff for the work they have done during the pandemic.

Board member Wilson asked to address the recent social justice issues stemming from the murder of George Floyd. Dr. Wilson and Dr. Francisco Duran introduced a statement regarding recent events for consideration for the Board to adopt. After discussion, the Board adopted the introduced statement.

With all agenda items and discussion of current events resolved, the Board adjourned its June 2020 Business Meeting. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 22-23, 2020.

Special Committee Thursday Work Session

Dr. Keisha Pexton called the Thursday Work Session of the Special Committee to review the SoA to order and proceeded to introduce the special working group. In addition to Dr. Pexton, Board President Dan Gecker and Board members Dr. Francisco Duran, Dr. Jamelle Wilson, and Pamela Davis-Vaught will comprise the special committee. The committee will work with Department of Education staff to review the SoA.

The special committee will review the current SoA and determine what, if any, changes to the current SoA are needed at the present time. Dr. Pexton reviewed the Action Plan for completing the work and asked for input from each committee member.

Following discussion of the Action Plan and the timeline for completing the work, Dr. Pexton adjourned the special committee meeting.

I thank you for your support as advocates for public education. The full agenda and supporting documents can be found by visiting the following [link](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

J.T.