

Virginia Board of Education – November 2019 Meeting Update

On November 13th and 14th, the [Virginia Board of Education \(VBOE\)](#) met for their scheduled work session and regular business meeting. Video streams of the meetings can be found [here](#). While we do our best to give you a concise summary of the topics discussed during each 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 January 23, 2020.

Board Work Session

The Board convened its Wednesday afternoon work session and proceeded to hear from Jenna Conway, Chief Readiness Officer, Office of the Governor, regarding Governor Ralph Northam's plans for [Early Childhood Education](#). Governor Northam issued Executive Directive 4 which addresses the need to ensure each child in Virginia has equitable access to quality early childhood care and education. Ms. Conway informed the Board of the work that has taken place since the issuing of the directive and provided an overview of the administration's strategy for introducing legislation during the 2020 General Assembly session.

Next, the Board heard from Dr. Tina Manglicmot, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Innovation, Virginia Department of Education. Dr. Manglicmot provided the Board with information for consideration on [Potential Guidance to Fulfill the Instruction Hours Requirement Utilizing Virtual Learning Opportunities](#). With alternative methods to deliver instruction becoming more available to students, DoE is leading a discussion with the Board as to determine the appropriate use of the school building for students in their academic coursework, opportunities for school divisions to innovate by re-thinking the instructional day, and addressing potential barriers that families, students, and school divisions would likely encounter in the process.

The next presentation for the Board was delivered by Ms. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment, Accountability, and ESSA Programs. Ms. Loving-Ryder spoke to the Board on the [process and procedures for setting SOL standards](#). In Virginia, SOL test standards are set by utilizing the Angoff procedure. The Angoff procedure is widely used for test standards and has been the procedure for SOL Assessments since 1998.

Following discussion of the SOL standard setting procedure, the Board heard from Dr. Michelle Wallace, School Quality Coordinator, on the topic of [Alternative Accreditation Plans](#). Dr. Wallace explained the policy set forth in the Standards of Quality and according to Department of Education procedures, that allows any school division to request the Board for release from state regulations or, on behalf of one or more of its schools, for approval of an Individual School Accreditation Plan. At its January 2020 meeting, the Board will be asked to consider requests for Individual School Accreditation Plans from multiple school divisions in the Commonwealth.

After brief discussion, Ms. Emily V. Webb, Director of Board Relations, delivered the final presentation of the Board's Wednesday afternoon work session where she provided an update on the 2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia. At its October meeting, the Board provided additions and edits to the first draft of the 2019 Annual Report. The Board reviewed editorial and technical edits from members and staff that have been included in the narrative of the report. Additionally, an executive summary, supplemental

data, and research has been added to the final draft of the 2019 Annual Report. The Board considered this report at its regular meeting on Thursday November 14, 2019. Notes can be found under the Business Session portion of this report.

The Annual Report is required by Article VIII, Section 5 of the *Constitution of Virginia* and §22.1-18 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Board members provided additional items for inclusion in the 2019 Annual Report and thanked Ms. Webb for her work on this task. With no additional items for discussion, the Board adjourned its Wednesday afternoon work session.

Board Business Session

The following morning, Thursday, November 14th, the Board reconvened for their [main business session](#). Board President Dan Gecker called the business session to order and asked for approval of the minutes from the October Board meeting. Following approval of the minutes, the Board presented a Resolution of Appreciation for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Public Education to Mrs. Elizabeth V. Lodal, member of the Virginia Board of Education from 2015 until 2019.

At the conclusion of guest recognitions, the Board proceeded to the public comment portion of its agenda. With public comment having been heard, the Board moved to its Consent Agenda items: [Item A](#)- **Final Review of Revisions to the Career and Technical Work-Based Learning Guide**, [Item B](#)- **Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Establish Dual Language Endorsements in the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel in Response to House Bill 1156 (2018 General Assembly)**, [Item C](#)- **Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation for the Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 (2019 General Assembly)** ([Item C: Attachment A](#)), [Item D](#)- **Final Review of Report from the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendations for Dual Enrollment in Response to Senate Bill 1575 (2019 General Assembly)** ([Item D: Attachment A](#)), [Item E](#)- **Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Funds** ([Item E: Attachments A-B](#)).

Following approval of the Consent Agenda, the Board proceeded to its Action/Discussion Items.

[Item F](#)- **Final Review of Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents** ([Item F: Attachment A](#)) ([Item F: Attachment B](#)) ([Item F: Attachment C](#)). Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Department of Education, presented Item F to the Board for First Review. The *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to establish performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers, principals, and superintendents. The Board of Education is beginning a process to review and make revisions to the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents. Prior to a broader review, revised Guidelines are being presented to the Board of Education to address only the weighting of the performance standards for the evaluation of teachers, principals, and superintendents.

In 2012, in response to federal reporting requirements pursuant to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) and to meet requirements of Virginia's Elementary and Secondary Education Act

of 1965 Flexibility Plan, Virginia was required to ensure that student academic progress (standard 7) accounted for 40 percent of the summative evaluation for teachers. As such, the Board of Education's current Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers called for the first six standards to be weighted equally at 10 percent each and the seventh standard, student academic progress, to account for 40 percent of the summative evaluation. Since the federal reporting requirement has been eliminated, these percentages are not mandated. The weighting of student academic progress at 40 percent of the summative evaluation is no longer required. The *Code of Virginia* requires that student academic progress be a “**significant**” component of the evaluation. The Guidelines propose that evaluation of student academic progress is met if *Performance Standard 7: Student Academic Progress* is not the least weighted of the performance standards or less than one (10 percent); however, it may be weighted equally as one of the multiple lowest weighted standards.

Upon completion of her presentation, Mrs. Pitts asked the Board to consider the Superintendent of Public Instruction's recommendation to approve final review of the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents*.

Board member Anne Holton stated the recommendation is to only make changes to the guidelines on student performance in Standard 7 as it relates to summative evaluations.

A motion was made by Board member Atkinson and seconded by Board member Duran to approve Final Review of Item F. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Item G- Final Review of the Board of Education's 2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia. ([Item G: Attachment A](#)). Ms. Emily V. Webb, Director of Board Relations, Virginia Department of Education presented for Final Review, The *2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia* which provides an overview of the Board's work based on the priorities and goals of the *Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023* and the achievement of schools in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Annual Report outlines the condition of public education including:

- Student demographics and enrollment trends;
- Accreditation status;
- Performance on school quality indicators;
- Graduation and dropout rates;
- Suspension rates among demographic groups; and
- Education funding as compared to other states.

Since first review, editorial and technical edits from Board members and staff have been made to the narrative of the report; an executive summary and additional data and research has been added, based on feedback from the October 16, 2019 work session, and all appendices have been finalized.

The Annual Report is required by Article VIII, Section 5 of the *Constitution of Virginia* and §22.1-18 of the *Code of Virginia*.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Webb asked the Board to consider the Superintendent of Public Instruction's recommendation for approval of the *2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia* for final review.

Following discussion of the Annual Report, Board member Holton made a Motion to approve Final Review of Item G. The motion was seconded by Board member Adkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Item H- First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools, and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) or Fewer Students. (Item H: Attachments A-F). Dr. Michelle Wallace, School Quality Coordinator, Office of School Quality, Virginia Department of Education, presented Item H to the Board for First Review. The school divisions listed in Item H are requesting the Board approve alternative accreditation plans for schools within their division in order to meet the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) benchmark for schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students.

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the GCI. For this reason, the GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for these schools; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation. Each school division is requesting a waiver to 8VAC 20-131-380 of the Standards of Accreditation so that adjustments may be made to the accreditation calculations for accountability purposes.

Previous plans were approved May 25, 2017. The current requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans address the revisions to Graduation and Completion Index in the *Standards of Accreditation*.

This aligns with the following Board of Education Goal from the 2018-2023 Comprehensive Plan: Priority 3: Ensure successful implementation of the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate* and the accountability system for school quality as embodied in the revisions to the *Standards of Accreditation*.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Dr. Wallace asked the Board to accept Item H for First Review as recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Board accepted First Review of Item H.

Item I- First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Arlington County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools. (Item I: Attachments A-H). Dr. Michelle Wallace, School Quality Coordinator, Office of School Quality, Virginia Department of Education, presented Item I for First Review. The school divisions listed in Item I are requesting renewal of alternative education plans for special purpose schools within their division. As part of their requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans, the school divisions are asking for waivers of the *Regulations Establishing Standards of Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) so adjustments may be made to accreditation calculations.

Dr. Wallace informed the Board that it is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the Board accept First Review of Item I.

Board member Holton asked that Superintendent Lane provide the Board with a report on the merits for all schools requesting alternative accreditation in both Item H and Item I at the January meeting. Superintendent Lane advised the Board that a thorough review of each request will be done by the Department of Education prior to the Item being heard for final review at the January meeting and that the findings will be shared with members.

Following the discussion, the Board accepted First Review of Item I.

At the conclusion of discussion of current event topics, President Gecker thanked Board members for their work during the 2019 calendar year. He expressed his excitement for the work the Board would be embarking on once they return in 2020. With no additional Board members wishing to comment, the November 2019 meeting of the Virginia State Board of Education was adjourned.

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.