

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ P. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 20-21, 2005

**Topic:** Discussion of Topical Assignments for Study by the Board of Education's Advisory Committees, 2005

Presenter: Mrs. Anne D. Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications

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Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other: Board of Education By-laws

Action requested at this meeting

Action requested at future meeting:

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date:

action:

**Background Information:** The Board of Education currently has a total of seven advisory committees (see list beginning on page 3) charged with making recommendations on various topics. The advisory committees fall into two groups in terms of their origins: 1) those established by action of the Board of Education and 2) those established by the Code of Virginia or by federal law.

The Board of Education's bylaws state that the "Board may direct the advisory committee to undertake studies or assignments on specific topics and to make recommendations related to specific issues as the Board president deems necessary and appropriate." (Bylaws of the Board of Education, Article Sixteen, Section 7, as amended October 2004)

**Summary of Major Elements:** Based upon the Board of Education's discussion of objectives for the comprehensive plan, the Board may wish to request its advisory committees to undertake studies or assignments related to the Board's priorities. The discussion at the planning session could help inform the work of the advisory committees throughout 2005 and beyond, and the Board of Education is asked to specify any special assignments that it may identify at this time.

In addition to the advisory committees, the Board of Education has established several standing or ad hoc committees. The Board may wish for its committees to undertake studies related to its priorities.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** N/A

**Impact on Resources:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Following the discussion by the Board of Education, Department of Education staff will communicate the assignments to the appropriate advisory committees. The various advisory committees will report their findings and recommendations when they submit their annual reports to the Board of Education or at another time as requested by the Board.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

### **Virginia Advisory Committee on the Education of the Gifted**

- Established by: Board of Education action in 1982
- Number of members: 24 members appointed by the Board of Education.
- Term: Three-year staggered terms. May be re-appointed to second three-year term
- Qualifications for membership: Shall be composed of persons concerned with the education of the gifted. Shall include representatives from higher education, parent groups, education associations, the General Assembly, business and industry, professional organizations, and administrators of local programs for gifted students. Shall be a minimum of four representatives from the parent and local administrator groups. Shall also include at-large members.
- Contact: Dr. Barbara McGonagill, specialist for Gifted Education/Governor's Schools

### **Virginia Special Education Advisory Committee**

- Established by: Mandate in the Rules and Regulations for the Administration of Public Law 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1997 and the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*.
- Number of members: Number not specified. Appointed by the Board of Education
- Term: Three-year staggered term. May be re-appointed to second term.
- Qualifications for membership: The committee is composed of representatives of stakeholder groups as prescribed by IDEA, 1997. Current membership includes eight parents of children with disabilities, two individuals with disabilities, a teacher, a representative of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel, a local superintendent, a local special education director, a representative of an organization concerned with transition services, a representative of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities, and a representative of a correctional agency.
- Contact: Dr. Pat Abrams, director of Special Education Programs

### **Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)**

- Established by: Section 22.1-305.2, Code of Virginia
- Number of members: 19 members, most appointed by the Board of Education (see below)
- Term: Three-year staggered term. May be re-appointed to a second consecutive term.
- Qualifications for membership: As specified in Code of Virginia: Ten members shall be classroom teachers, with at least the following representation: three elementary school teachers, three middle school teachers, and three high school teachers. Three members shall be school administrators, one of whom shall be a school principal, one of whom shall be a division superintendent, and one of whom shall be a school personnel administrator. Two members shall be faculty members in teacher preparation programs in public or private institutions of higher education, who may represent the arts and sciences. One member shall be a member of a school board. One member shall be a member of a parent-teacher association. One member shall be a representative of the business community and one member shall be a citizen at large. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (or her designee) and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education (or her designee) and the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (or his designee) shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the Advisory Board.
- Contact: Dr. Thomas Elliott, assistant superintendent for Teacher Education and Professional Licensure

### **Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy**

- Established by: Board of Education action, June 2001.
- Number of members: 13, plus two committee co-chairmen. Appointed by the Board of Education
- Term: Three-year staggered terms. May be re-appointed to second term.
- Qualifications for membership: Representatives of groups that have an interest in adult education and literacy.
- Contact: Dr. Yvonne Thayer, director of Adult Education Programs

### **Advisory Commission for the Schools for the Deaf and Blind**

- Established by: Section 22.1-346.1, Code of Virginia.
- Number of members: 12 members appointed by General Assembly.
- Term: Legislative members shall serve until the expiration of their terms of office or until their successors shall qualify. Citizen appointments shall be for terms of four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No citizen member shall be eligible to serve for or during more than two successive four-year terms, but after the expiration of a term of three years or less, or after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional four-year terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.
- Qualifications for membership: All members are appointed by the General Assembly, to be appointed as follows: the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall appoint five members of the House of Delegates and three citizen members, and the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections shall appoint three members of the Senate of Virginia and one citizen member. Of the three citizen members so appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, one shall be a former student of either of the schools, one shall be a parent of a sensory impaired multi-disabled student who is currently attending or has attended the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton, and one shall be a current member of the Board of Education. The citizen member to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections shall be a former student of either of the schools or a parent of a student who is currently attending or has attended either of the schools.
- Contact: Dr. Karen Trump, director of State School Programs

### **Advisory Committee on Career and Technical Education**

- Established by: Board of Education action, May 2003.
- Number of members: 13 members appointed by the Board of Education.
- Term: Three-year staggered term; may serve second term.
- Qualifications for membership: Shall reflect geographic areas of the state whenever possible; persons knowledgeable about and concerned with career and technical education.
- Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Russell, director of Career and Technical Education

### **Student Advisory Committee**

- Number of members: 12.
- Term: One-year term; selected by the Board of Education using an application process.
- Qualifications for membership: Student members shall be selected by a committee of the Board appointed by the President. Such student membership shall consist of one high school student from each of the eight Superintendents Regions in the Commonwealth and four middle school students selected at-large from the Commonwealth.
- Contact: Ms. Michelle Parker, policy analyst

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES**

In addition to its advisory committees, the Board of Education has established the following as either standing or ad hoc committees:

- Committee on Standards of Quality
- Committee on Lowest-Performing School Divisions
- Special Committee on English as a Second Language
- Charter School Application Review Committee
- Special Committee of the Board of Education to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessments