

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ J. _____

Date: _____ September 27, 2006 _____

Topic: Request to the Secretary of Education to Approve the Department of General Services to Proceed with the Design Work to Consolidate the Two Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind as Authorized by the General Assembly in the 2006 Session

Presenter: Mr. H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other: Item C-17.50, Chapter 3, 2006 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

Date: July 27, 2005

Action: Adopted a proposal from Trammell Crow under the Public Private Education and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) to consolidate the two schools for the deaf and the blind

Date: September 21, 2005

Action: Reviewed cost estimates for four (4) options presented by Trammell Crow and voted to present the findings to the Appropriations and Finance Committees and ask for further instruction from the General Assembly

Background Information:

As noted above, following work begun by a consolidation task force in 2003, the Board of Education has taken previous actions with respect to the process of consolidating the two state schools for the deaf and the blind.

On July 27, 2005, two proposals for the consolidation of the two Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind were presented to the Board of Education. Proposals were submitted to the Commonwealth pursuant to requirements of the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act – 2002 (PPEA). The Board selected the proposal submitted by the Trammell Crow Company (TCC) for further development of three specific consolidation options. Development options considered were:

1. Renovation and/or construction of a new facility at Staunton
2. Renovation and/or construction of a new facility at Hampton
3. Construction of a new facility at alternate locations in accordance with the guidelines for the new facility in the Department of Education feasibility study

On September 21, 2005, the Department of Education, Department of General Services, and TCC presented their investigative findings and recommendations on the three consolidation options to the Board. The recommendations with associated construction costs presented were:

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| 1. Build a new facility in the Richmond Metro area | \$84,158,402 |
| 2. Build a new facility in the Charlottesville Metro area | \$88,908,402 |
| 3. Renovate selected buildings and build new needed facilities at the Staunton site | \$98,871,159 |
| 4. Renovate selected buildings and build new needed facilities at the Hampton site | \$88,000,984 |

All four recommendations exceeded the development costs of \$61.5 million authorized in the 2005 Virginia Acts of Assembly – Chapter 951: Item 136. Chapter 951, Item 136 also required the Department of Education and the Department of General Services to report their finding to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health. The information was reported as required, prompting consideration by the Governor and General Assembly during the 2006 General Assembly session for additional funding.

The General Assembly considered the additional funding needed to complete any of the four recommendations and authorized design work towards development of recommendation number 3 (see above). The authorization language approved by the Governor and the General Assembly in the 2006 Virginia Acts of Assembly – Chapter 3, Item C-17.50 states:

1. Notwithstanding other provisions of the Code of Virginia, the State Board of Education, assisted by the Department of General Services, shall use a Public-Private Education Act (PPEA) proposal to plan and design the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-disabled at Hampton into a single campus and transfer the students, programs and services to a single campus at Staunton. Funding in this item is provided to plan for the necessary renovations, additions and new facility construction at the Staunton campus. The Department of General Services shall develop a plan for disposing of

buildings and property no longer necessary for special education purposes. The Department of General Services shall work with the City of Staunton and the Department of Historic Resources when considering proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities. The properties shall be conveyed with appropriate historic easements at fair market value with the proceeds reverting to the general fund to offset the cost of construction of the new facility.

2. The Department of Education shall assist with the coordination with appropriate local entities for the transition of services to a regional day program in the Hampton Roads area by no later than June 30, 2008. The Department of General Services, in conjunction with the Board of Education may, with the Governor's approval, convey the current Hampton campus to an existing nonprofit or public entity in Hampton Roads to facilitate these services. In addition, the Department of Education shall provide appropriate technical assistance to regional special education programs and school divisions statewide. The Department of General Services shall develop a plan for disposing of buildings and property no longer necessary for special education purposes in the City of Hampton. The Department of General Services shall work with the City of Hampton and the Department of Historic Resources when considering proposals that may transfer ownership to or establish long-term leases with private entities. The properties shall be conveyed with appropriate historic easements at fair market value."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$2.5 million from the general fund towards architectural and engineering drawings for consolidation of the residential programs of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-disabled at Hampton into one school on the campus of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton. In addition, this amendment authorizes the conveyance of the current Hampton campus to a regional day program in Hampton Roads.)

Summary of Major Elements:

The Board of Education is authorized, with the assistance of the Department of General Services, to proceed with planning and design to consolidate the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-disabled at Hampton into a single campus and transfer of the students, programs services to a single campus at Staunton. The Department of General Services requires approval from the Board of Education to proceed.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education prepare and deliver a letter to the Secretary of Education communicating its approval for the Department of General Services to proceed as authorized in the 2006 Virginia Acts of Assembly and in accordance with the PPEA guidelines.

Impact on Resources:

The General Assembly has authorized \$2.5 million for this phase of the project.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The timetable for further action is dependent on the timelines required for inclusion of the total project funding request to be considered during the 2007 session of the General Assembly. The Department of Education and the Department of General Services must provide information to the 2007 General Assembly of the total needed funding needed to complete the project.