

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ G. _____

Date: April 27, 2007

Topic: Report from the Board of Education's 2006-2007 Student Advisory Committee

Presenters: Mrs. Isis M. Castro and Mrs. Eleanor B. Saslaw, Members of the Board of Education and Sponsors of the Student Advisory Committee

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: _____

Action requested at this meeting

Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action
date: February 28, 2007
action: Board of Education received initial report

Background Information: Members of the 2006-2007 Student Advisory Committee were selected from more than 200 nominations received in November 2006 from public middle and high schools across the state. Each public middle school and high school was eligible to nominate one student for consideration. Statewide student organizations were also invited to submit nominees. The nominees completed an application packet that included letters of recommendation and essays.

Representatives of the Board of Education reviewed all applications and selected the new members according to Board of Education policy. The membership of the Student Advisory Committee is set forth in Article X of the Board of Education's bylaws. Of the 12 members of the Student Advisory Committee, one high school student is selected from each of the Department of Education's eight Superintendents' Study Group regions, and four middle school students are selected at-large (see attached membership list).

Summary of Major Elements: During the first meeting in December 2006, the members of the Student Advisory Committee discussed a broad spectrum of issues and concerns for students in the public schools across the state. From this discussion, the committee members selected three topics for in-depth study and divided into small work groups focused on the three topics.

The committee met again in February 2007 to continue its discussion. The members of the committee reported initial findings to the Board of Education at the February 28th meeting. At the April 27th meeting, the members of the committee will give their final report and recommendations to the Board of Education.

The committee topics and structure are as follows:

Group I: Cultural Awareness, International Studies, and Foreign Language in the Public Education System

Katlyn Allen, James River High School, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Adam Baker, Tabb High School, York County Public Schools
Justin Scott, Franklin County High School, Franklin County Public Schools
Anna Skubel, George Washington Middle School, Alexandria City Public Schools

Group II: Drug Abuse and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention Program

Rachel Chitwood, Pulaski County High School, Pulaski County Public Schools
Emma Horton, West Point High School, West Point Public Schools
Shelton Seaborn, Jr., Greenville County High School, Greenville County
Jeremy Jones, Bailey Bridge Middle School, Chesterfield County

Group III: Closing the Achievement Gap

Brian Bills, Charlottesville High School, Charlottesville City Public Schools
Paula Lewis, Lynnhaven Middle School, Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Monique Sturdivant, T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria City Public Schools
Kenzie VanDerwerker, Bedford Middle School, Bedford County Public Schools

Superintendent's Recommendation: N/A

Impact on Resources: Department of Education funds are used to support the work of the Student Advisory Committee by reimbursing for travel and other expenses related to the committee's meetings.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Following receipt of the final report and recommendations of the 2006-2007 Student Advisory Committee, the Board of Education will set a timetable for follow-up actions and discussions.

Members of the 2006-2007 Student Advisory Committee

Katlyn Allen
James River High School
Chesterfield County
Region I

Paula Lewis
Lynnhaven Middle School
Virginia Beach City
Region II

Adam Baker
Tabb High School
York County
Region II

Justin Scott
Franklin County High School
Franklin County
Region VI

Brian Bills
Charlottesville High School
Charlottesville City
Region V

Shelton Seaborn, Jr.
Greensville County High School
Greensville County
Region VIII

Rachel Chitwood
Pulaski County High School
Pulaski County
Region VII

Anna Skubel
George Washington Middle School
Alexandria City
Region IV

Emma Horton
West Point High School
West Point
Region III

Monique Sturdivant
T. C. Williams High School
Alexandria City
Region IV

Jeremy Jones
Bailey Bridge Middle School
Chesterfield County
Region I

Kenzie VanDerwerker
Bedford Middle School
Bedford County
Region V