

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ O. _____

Date: May 30, 2007

Topic: Action Required to Continue the Process of Consolidating the Two Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

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

Telephone Number: (804) 225-2715 **E-Mail Address:** Doug.Cox@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

_____ Board review required by

_____ State or federal law or regulation

_____ Board of Education regulation

X Other: Appropriation Act, Chapter 847, 2007 Acts of Assembly

X Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

_____ No previous board review/action

X Previous review/action

Date: July 27, 2005

Action: Reviewed proposals submitted under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) for the consolidation of the two Virginia schools for the deaf and the blind; selected proposal submitted by Trammell Crow

Date: September 21, 2005

Reviewed options prepared by Trammel Crow under the PPEA; requested further instruction from the General Assembly

Background Information:

Beginning with the 2003 General Assembly, several tasks have been assigned to either the Department of Education, the Board of Education or the Department of General Services (DGS) to plan needed activities for the consolidation of the two state schools for the deaf and the blind into a single school program. A brief summary of those directives is provided below.

2003 General Assembly

The Board of Education was charged with responsibility for forming and conducting a task force to develop a conceptual framework for the new program. It is reported in the subsequent document submitted entitled *Plan for Consolidating Services for the Deaf and/or Blind and Multi-Disabled Students Served by Virginia's Two Schools at Staunton and Hampton*.

2004 General Assembly

The Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Resources, Administration, and Finance, together with the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, the two schools for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled, the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Planning and Budget were directed to conduct capital needs assessment and feasibility study for consolidating the State's two existing schools for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled. The feasibility study report was transmitted by the Secretary of Education to the Governor and the General Assembly.

2005 General Assembly

The Board of Education was directed to continue the process for consolidating the schools, including the development of projected building costs and the selection of a site for the new school. The General Assembly authorized \$61.5 million for construction of a new school if the Board of Education selected a Public-Private Education Act (PPEA) proposal.

At its meeting on July 27, 2005, the Board selected a PPEA proposal submitted by Trammell Crow and authorized the Department and DGS to move forward with Trammell Crow to examine options for the following

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 as in accordance with the guidelines for the new facility in the Department of Education Feasibility Study

At its meeting on September 21, 2005, the Board reviewed cost estimates prepared by Trammell Crow for the options described above. Because the cost estimates exceeded the \$61.5 million authorization (between 37 and 54 percent), the Board voted to present findings of cost estimates from Trammell Crow along with comments from the Board to the Appropriations and Finance Committees and ask for further instruction from the General Assembly.

2006 General Assembly

The Board of Education was directed, assisted by DGS, to plan and design the consolidation of the two schools into a single campus at Staunton by beginning the process of developing architectural and engineering drawings for the consolidated school. Funding appropriated for this purpose was \$2.5 million dollars. The DGS services included the development of a proposed schematic for the Staunton site with the intent to continue with development of preliminary drawings, working drawings and the final

construction document after the project is funded. The amendment further authorized the transfer of the current Hampton campus to a regional day program in Hampton Roads.

2007 General Assembly

The Board of Education was directed to enter into either 1) a conventional design contract and construction manager at risk contract or 2) an interim agreement under the PPEA to plan and design the consolidation of the two schools and to transfer the students, programs and services from the Hampton program to a single campus at Staunton. Funding appropriated for this purpose is \$3.5 million dollars. A copy of the Appropriation Act language is attached.

The Department of Education is directed to 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 property from either campus specific to the purposes outlined.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education enter into a conventional design contract and a construction manager at risk contract with assistance from the Department of General Services.

Impact on Resources:

The impact on resources will depend upon the action chosen by the Board of Education. The General Assembly has authorized \$3.5 million for this phase of the project.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The timetable for further action is dependent of the timelines required for inclusion of the project funding for the 2008 General Assembly session. The Department of Education must provide cost information to the Department of Planning and Budget by July 30, 2007. The information must subsequently be provided to the 2008 General Assembly.

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton (218)

17.50.	<i>New Construction: Consolidation of the Schools for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-disabled (17435)</i>	2,500,000	0
			3,500,000

Fund	General		
Sources:		2,500,000	0
			3,500,000

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~~ enter into either 1) a conventional design contract and a construction manager at risk contract, or 2) an interim agreement under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (§ 56-575.1 et seq., Code of Virginia) 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.

3. Out of this appropriation, \$3,500,000 the second year from the general fund is available to continue the process for achieving consolidation of the two schools at the Staunton Campus. Such funds may be used for, but are not limited to, expenditures to

continue planning for consolidation at the Staunton campus and expenditures to facilitate the future use of the Hampton campus.