

Virginia Board of Education  
Student Advisory Committee  
Minutes: December 11, 2008

Students in Attendance:

Drake Bishop, Nottoway High School; Meghan Bryan, Eagle Ridge Middle School; Tara Coleman, Council High School; Calvin Hunt, Millbrook High School; Kevin Kabaria, Richlands Middle School; David Krawczyk, William Fleming High School; Abby Moul, Bruton High School; Nquobile Mthethwa, Prospect Heights Middle School; Kelly Robeson, North Stafford High School, Jose Soto, Bayside Middle School; Kiyoko Timmons, Richmond Community High School; and, Madison Wilson, Harrisonburg High School.

Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Vucci, Michelle Parker, Melissa Velazquez

Virginia Board of Education Member in Attendance:

Eleanor Saslaw

Mrs. Saslaw welcomed the 12 new members of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and paired the students up to introduce each other to the group. The SAC is composed of eight high school students representing each superintendent's region, and four middle school students, selected at large.

Department of Education staff reviewed the SAC notebook, a copy of which was given to each student, and other administrative matters with the committee members. Mrs. Saslaw explained the mission of the committee, the role of the committee, and expectations for the work of the committee and reviewed the eight objectives in the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan for 2005-2010.

The SAC committee members were divided into three groups of four students. Each group was directed to identify two topics or issues that they felt the Board of Education may want to address. Members were informed that after the group identified two issues those issues would be presented to the entire SAC for consideration. The SAC would then pick one issue from each group as the policy areas the SAC would research and present to the Board of Education for action.

The groups chose the following issues:

Group 1 chose foreign language study, recognition of students and stricter teacher hiring criteria. Group 2 chose student achievement and online educational opportunities. Group

3 chose globalization and the role of foreign language and technology instruction and school safety.

Representatives of each group presented each group's issues with explanations to the full committee. After lengthy discussion the entire committee chose the following three issues: student recognition programs; online educational opportunities; and globalization and the role of foreign language and technology instruction. Each group then met and identified the work that needed to be done and made assignments for the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009.