

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Standards of Quality Committee
November 28, 2006

James Monroe Building
Jefferson Meeting Room, 22nd Floor
Richmond, Virginia
4 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Dr. Gary Jones, chair. The following Board of Education members were present: Dr. Emblidge, Mrs. Castro, Mrs. Saslaw, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Brewster and Mr. Moore. Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

Dr. Cindy Cave, director of student services in the office of special education and student services, provided information regarding the Department of Education's school safety initiatives. Dr. Cave discussed the history of the agency's efforts to promote school safety, funding streams that have been utilized and provided to school divisions and several recent and current program initiatives. These included:

- Bullying Prevention Staff Development Workshops
- Prevention Through Information, a grant to improve the capacity of Virginia schools to collect and use school crime and safety data for prevention planning
- Risk and Protective Factor Framework and Relationship to Gang Prevention Workshops
- Threat Assessment, including the publication of "Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence"
- Virginia Truancy Initiative
- Annual Report for Discipline, Crime and Violence
- Crisis Management
- ListServe, an electronic service that provides the most recent information available about alcohol, substance abuse, and violence prevention to safe and drug free schools coordinators in each school division via e-mail
- Student Conduct Policy Guidelines

Dr. Cave then acknowledged the staff members in the safe and drug free schools program and the work they have done to promote school safety.

Ms. Anne Wescott, assistant superintendent for policy and communications, presented proposed amendments to the draft changes to the Standards of Quality that were presented to the committee and Board at its October meetings. During those meetings,

Board members requested some minor changes to the draft. Additionally, a few minor changes were requested by constituents.

Ms. Wescott discussed the proposed minor changes in the following areas:

- Language describing the programs of prevention, intervention or remediation would be changed to “research-based” from “a demonstrated record of effectiveness,” so as not to eliminate innovative programs that are research-based but may not yet have a demonstrated record of effectiveness.
- The language about the data manager/test coordinator position would clarify the role of this position. This position would provide schools support in data management and utilization and the administration of state assessments. The data manager/test coordinator would be required to hold a license issued by the Board of Education and serve as a resource to principals and classroom teachers in analyzing and interpreting data for instructional purposes.
- Language would clarify that school and public libraries do not have to maintain printed copies of the school board policies, so long as printed copies are available to citizens who do not have online access.

After discussion by the committee, members agreed to the changes.

Mrs. Castro then discussed concerns regarding staffing and services for ESOL students. She stated that she would be requesting at the Board meeting that an impact study be conducted to determine the needs of these students and school divisions’ abilities to meet those needs.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.