

DRAFT MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality
Wednesday, October 26, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the October 26, 2016 meeting of the Committee on the Standards of Quality: Diane Atkinson; Dr. Oktay Baysal; Wesley J. Bellamy; Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr.; James Dillard; Daniel A. Gecker; Elizabeth Lodol ; Joan Wodiska; and Sal Romero, Jr. Dr. Steven Staples, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Dr. Cannaday, chairman of this committee, convened the meeting at 10:00am.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 21, 2016 Committee Meeting

Ms. Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2016 committee meeting. Mr. Gecker seconded the motion, and the draft minutes were approved unanimously.

[The motion was erroneously made to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2016 committee meeting. At the Board meeting on October 27, 2016, the motion to approve the September 21, 2016 minutes was approved.]

Public Comment

Emily Webb spoke on behalf of the Virginia School Boards Association in favor of eliminating the cap on support positions in the Standards of Quality, and the importance of state funding and support in implementing changes to school personnel ratios.

Presentations

Dr. Cynthia Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications for the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), presented the Recommendations to Revise the Standards of Quality for final review by the Board.

[Final Review of Recommendations to Revise the Standards of Quality](#)

The Board had the following comments and questions:

- In Standard 2 of the Standards of Quality (SOQ), elementary principals should precede assistant principals in the regulations, because that is how they are ordered in the statute itself.
- The new work on the Profile of a Graduate should be added to the language of the recommendation, to reflect the greater need for school counselors. The Profile of a Graduate is currently included in the background information, but also needs to be in the recommendation itself.
- Some school divisions have raised concerns about the proposal to eliminate waiver language in the Appropriations Act for staffing ratios. To better understand their concerns, staff should collect data on how this might impact local school divisions.
 - Dr. Staples responded that staff can work with the Virginia Association of School Superintendents to obtain that information for the Board.
- The Board discussed prioritizing their recommendations for presentation to the General Assembly.
- One Board member suggested that the removal of the cap on support positions in the SOQ could be implemented in a tiered system. This would allow school divisions who wish to proceed to the previous numbers to do so, without requiring other school divisions to achieve those levels immediately.
- The importance of school nurses was discussed. One Board member stressed the importance of having nurses in every school, as they assist students in many ways.
- One Board member noted that it is the Board's job to reflect prevailing practices in the SOQ. The constitution of Virginia states that the role of the Board is to prescribe the standards it deems necessary to run a public education system—it is the role of the legislature to fund those standards.
- Prevailing practice is based on the average of aggregated data. There are wide disparities between the prevailing practice of different school divisions. There have been significant increases in the number of students in Virginia who are English learners, living in poverty, or have special needs. This should be considered when evaluating the needs of different school divisions based on past practice.
- The SOQ should be conditional on state support. Localities should supplement, not supplant, that support. The Board should not expect a standard without providing the support for local school divisions to achieve that standard.
- It is important to give local school divisions flexibility in order to serve the specific needs of their student populations. Using aggregate data can mask the needs of school divisions whose needs in certain areas exceed the state average.

- Professional development, which is part of Standard 5, needs more attention. There should be a recommendation regarding professional development and resources needed for quality professional development.
- One Board member noted that what is in practice is not necessarily reflective of what is needed. Prevailing practice is based on past practice. This language of “prevailing practice” should be changed to “needed practice,” given the high expectations outlined in the SOQ.
- Moving forward, the Board will need to consider the following issues:
 - What is the prevailing practice obligation?
 - How should the Board work with the General Assembly Joint Committee on the Future of Public Education?
 - What is the Board’s strategy in the near term and the longer term with regard to engaging existing and needed practice?
 - Should the Board prioritize what funding is needed?
- One Board member suggested that, in the future, the Board may need to consider having different standards for different schools.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.