

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

February 21, 2008

The Board of Education and the Board of Career and Technical Education met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Richmond, with the following members present:

Dr. Mark E. Emblidge, President  
Dr. Ella P. Ward, Vice President  
Dr. Thomas M. Brewster  
Mrs. Isis M. Castro  
Mr. David L. Johnson

Dr. Gary L. Jones  
Mr. Kelvin L. Moore  
Mr. Andrew J. Rotherham  
Mrs. Eleanor B. Saslaw

Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. Cannaday called the organizational meeting of the Board to order at 9 a.m.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Dr. Cannaday asked Mr. Johnson to lead in a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

***ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS***

Dr. Cannaday asked for nominations for President. Mr. Rotherham nominated Dr. Emblidge for the office of President. The motion was second by Dr. Brewster. Dr. Cannaday called for the roll call vote for Dr. Emblidge for the office of President. The Board's roll call:

Mr. Moore – Yes	Dr. Emblidge – Yes
Mr. Johnson – Yes	Dr. Jones – Yes
Mrs. Castro – Yes	Mr. Rotherham – Yes
Mrs. Saslaw – Yes	Dr. Brewster – Yes

Dr. Ward was not present to vote. After the vote, Dr. Emblidge, the newly elected President, presided at the meeting.

Following are highlights of comments made by Dr. Emblidge after being elected President:

- Dr. Emblidge thanked the Board members for their support for another two years.
- He said he appreciated the gifts and talents that Board members bring to the work of the Board.
- Dr. Emblidge said the Board does not always agree, but they know how to disagree and always come together and develop a consensus on important issues.
- Dr. Emblidge said that the Board is fortunate to work with Dr. Cannaday and Dr. Wright and the talented and committed staff of the Virginia Department of Education.
- There are a lot of good things happening in Virginia in public Education. Virginia was recognized for moving from fourth to third place for the percentage of children passing the AP exams; Virginia is ranked in the top four in the nation in terms of public school systems by *Quality Counts*; and *Education Week* named Virginia as the place for children having the best opportunities to be successful in life.
- Dr. Emblidge closed by noting that this Board has some ambitious goals ahead, such as issues with the Standards of Accreditation, graduation rates, drop-out rates, as well as the issue surrounding moving from competence to excellence.

Dr. Emblidge asked for nominations for Vice-President. Mrs. Saslaw nominated Dr. Ward for Vice-President. Mrs. Castro seconded the motion.

The Board's roll call:

Mr. Moore – Yes	Dr. Jones – Yes
Mr. Johnson – Yes	Dr. Ward – Yes
Mrs. Castro – Yes	Mr. Rotherham – Yes
Mrs. Saslaw – Yes	Dr. Brewster – Yes
Dr. Emblidge – Yes	

By roll call vote, Dr. Ward was elected Vice-President. Dr. Ward thanked the Board for their support for another year as Vice-President. Dr. Ward said she looks forward to working with the Board.

### ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Dr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2008, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Castro and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes had been distributed to all members of the Board of Education.

## ***RESOLUTIONS***

A Resolution of Recognition was presented to Virginia's 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award recipients. The recipients are as follows:

- Kimberly L. Colbert, biology and life science teacher, Fred D. Thompson Middle School, Richmond City Public Schools, and
- Amy Macaleer, mathematics teacher, Battlefield High School, Prince William County Public Schools.

## ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

The following persons spoke during public comment:

Amy Ternois  
Courtney Stewart  
Al Butler

## ***ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

### ***Report from the Board of Education's 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee***

Mrs. Castro and Mrs. Saslaw presented this item. Mrs. Castro said that members of the 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee were selected from more than 100 nominations received in December 2007 from public middle and high schools across the state.

Mrs. Saslaw said that during the first meeting in December 2007, the members of the Student Advisory Committee discussed a broad spectrum of issues and concerns for students in public schools across the state. The students identified three priority issues for further study. The committee was divided into three study groups, as follows:

- Issue: Effective Integration of Technology into the Curriculum  
Group members:  
Anna Akers-Pecht, The Governor's School of Southside Virginia, Regional Program, Brunswick County  
Patrick Curtis, William Fleming High School, Roanoke City Public Schools  
Nitin Nainami, Chickahominy Middle School, Hanover County Public Schools  
Sandra Suhling, North Stafford High School, Stafford County Public Schools
- Issue: Building Positive Student/Faculty Relationships and Communication  
Group members:  
Shannon Farrow, Ni River Middle School, Spotsylvania County Public Schools  
Corinna Pan, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools  
Sean Poppen, Greenbrier Middle School, Chesapeake City Public Schools  
Brielle Spencer, Heritage High School, Lynchburg City Public Schools

➤ Issue: Enhance the Promotion and Communication of Opportunities to Students of State Funded Programs

Group members:

Christy Darling, Atlee High School, Hanover County Public Schools

Daniel Jang, River Bend Middle School, Loudoun County Public Schools

Andrew Proffitt, John S. Battle High School, Washington County Public Schools

Hannah Wagner, Western Branch High School, Chesapeake City Public Schools

A spokesperson for each group presented a brief summary of the work to date. The committee will present its final report and recommendations to the Board at the April meeting.

Mrs. Castro and Mrs. Saslaw thanked Michelle Parker and Melissa Velazquez for their continuous support and commitment of the Student Advisory Committee and Kathleen Smith, Vivian Stith-Williams, and Tammy McGraw for their presentations at the meeting.

Dr. Emblidge thanked the student members for their work and said that the Board will look forward to receiving the final recommendations.

**First Review of Rescinding Current English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards of Learning and Approval of World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) ELP Standards**

Mrs. Roberta Schlicher, director, program administration and accountability, presented this item. Mrs. Schlicher said that on September 20, 2002, the Board adopted English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards of Learning for English Language Learners (ELLs) as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Subsequently, these standards were revised and presented for first review on September 27, 2006, and second review on July 25, 2007. No final action was taken by the Board on the revised ELP Standards of Learning. Consequently, the 2002 ELP Standards of Learning remain as the current Board-approved standards.

Mrs. Schlicher said that on September 26, 2007, the Board adopted the ACCESS for ELLs® as the statewide English Language Proficiency assessment for 2008-2009. The ACCESS for ELLs® was developed by the World-Class Instructional Design Assessment (WIDA) consortium through a United States Department of Education (USED) Enhanced Assessment grant. Two requirements exist for states to implement the ACCESS for ELLs®. The requirements are: 1) joining the WIDA consortium; and 2) adopting the WIDA ELP standards. Board action is required to rescind the 2002 ELP Standards of Learning and adopt the WIDA ELP standards in order for the state to meet the requirements for implementation of the ACCESS for ELLs®.

Mrs. Schlicher said that the WIDA ELP standards support the English language development of English Language Learners (ELLs). The goal of the standards is to provide the foundation to enable ELLs to achieve academically in all content areas. There are five WIDA ELP standards that are represented in the following grade clusters: Pre-K-K; 1-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. Additionally, each standard encompasses six levels of English language proficiency as well as four language domains. The levels of English language proficiency are: entering, beginning, developing, expanding, bridging, and reaching. The four language domains are: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Finally, the standards contain both formative and summative model performance indicators.

Mrs. Castro made a motion to accept for first review the rescinding of the current English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards of Learning and the adoption of the WIDA ELP standards. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ward and carried unanimously. This item will be presented for final action at the Board's March 2008 meeting.

**First Review of the Proposed Standards for the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards**

Dr. Linda Wallinger, assistant superintendent for instruction, presented this item. Dr. Emily Richardson, president, Virginia Career Education Foundation, assisted with the presentation.

Dr. Wallinger said Virginia has received a \$500,000 grant from the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. There are two major activities to be accomplished under the terms of the grant: 1) the development of the Governor's Career and Technical Academies; and 2) the creation of the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards Program.

Dr. Wallinger said the Virginia Career Education Foundation (VCEF), a public-private partnership in the Commonwealth, has been charged with the development of exemplary standards to be used in the administration of the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards Program.

Dr. Richardson said that the grant proposal requires the Board of Education, which is also Virginia's Board of Career and Technical Education, to approve the standards on which the awards program will be based. The Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards Program is based on twelve standards, each with accompanying indicators or benchmarks. The standards are grouped into three areas: Program Excellence, Educational Significance, and Evidence of Effectiveness and Success.

Mrs. Saslaw made a motion to accept for first review the proposed standards for the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Awards Program.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Brewster and carried unanimously. This item will be presented to the Board for final action at the March 2008 meeting.

**Report from the Board of Education's Charter School Application Review Committee on a Proposed Public Charter School Application from the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts in Richmond, Virginia**

Mrs. Saslaw presented this item. Mrs. Saslaw said that the Charter School Application Review Committee met on December 10, 2007, to examine the public charter school application submitted by the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts in Richmond. The committee reviewed the application based on the criteria established by the Board and stipulated in the law. The full report has been transmitted to the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, with copies to the chair of the Richmond City School Board, the superintendent of Richmond City Public Schools, and the executive director of the Virginia School Boards Association.

Mrs. Saslaw said that the committee reviewed the application for the following criteria established by the Board of Education and stipulated in the *Code of Virginia*: 1) feasibility; 2) curriculum; and 3) financial soundness. A summary of the committee's findings follows:

**Area 1: Feasibility**

Under the area of feasibility, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) mission statement; 2) goals and educational objectives that meet or exceed the Standards of Learning; 3) evidence of support from parents, teachers, pupils, and residents of the school division in support of the formation of the charter school; and 4) statement of need. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

**Area 2: Curriculum**

Under the area of curriculum, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) the public charter school's educational program; 2) pupil performance standards; 3) pupil evaluation including assessments, timeline, and corrective action; and 4) a timeline for the achievement of the stated standards and goals and a procedure for corrective action if student performance falls below the stated standards and goals. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

**Area 3: Financial Soundness**

Under the area of financial soundness, the applicant addressed the one required topic: a financial plan that included evidence of economical soundness, a proposed budget, and an annual audit. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in this area.

The Board received the report from the charter school application review committee.

**Report on Status of 2008 General Assembly Actions**

Mr. Kent Dickey, assistant superintendent for finance, presented a summary of key actions in the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committee budgets. Mr. Dickey said that on December 17, 2007, Governor Kaine presented his proposed 2008-2010 biennial budget to the General Assembly. Governor Kaine's introduced budget fully funds the cost of rebenchmarking the Direct Aid budget for the 2008-2010 biennium. The Governor's budget also includes \$183.2 million for new or expanded Direct Aid programs in 2008-2010.

Mr. Dickey said that on February 12, 2008, Governor Kaine announced the revised general fund revenue forecast for fiscal years 2008 through 2010, as well as a proposed budget reduction plan designed to deal with the projected shortfall in state revenue. The revenue shortfall for the remainder of fiscal year 2008 and for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 is approximately \$1.4 billion. The Governor's proposed strategy to meet the shortfall includes some targeted reductions in Direct Aid to Public Education funding to school divisions.

The forecast of sales tax revenue for public education is reduced for fiscal years 2008 through 2010; this results in an off-setting increase in the state and local shares of Basic Aid costs. The net reduction in state funding is \$5.7 million in FY08, \$10.9 million in FY09, and \$14.7 million in FY10. Funding for VRS retirement is reduced by \$15.2 million in FY09 and \$15.4 million in FY10 by reducing the employer contribution rate from 9.35% to 8.81%.

The Governor's plan also recommends a \$55 million reduction in the School Construction Grants Program funding over the 2008-2010 biennium, and shifts 50% (\$165.7 million over the biennium) of locally distributed lottery proceeds to fund the state share of Basic Aid. The Governor also proposes reductions (\$4.6 million in FY09; \$5.5 million in FY10) in the expansion funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative by recognizing 75% (vs. 100%) of reduced lunch students in the funding formula.

Dr. Jones made a motion to send a resolution to the General Assembly supporting the two items in the Governor's budget--levels of funding for rebenchmarking and teacher salaries. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ward and carried unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Standards of Quality define the minimum foundation the Commonwealth must provide to meet its constitutional obligation to maintain "an educational program of high quality" for the children of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, without sufficient funding to implement these important standards, Virginia's public schools would not have made the progress and earned the national recognition for academic achievement the citizens of the Commonwealth have been celebrating for the last twelve years under the Standards of Learning; and

WHEREAS, the cost “rebenchmarking” process recognizes that the costs to school divisions of offering a program that meets the Standards of Quality change over time; and

WHEREAS, maintaining current cost estimates is necessary to support the ability of school divisions to recruit and retain the highly qualified school personnel required to provide the foundation program and meet state accountability requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Board of Education reaffirm their support for maintaining all components of the current methodology for rebenchmarking the 2008-2010 biennial costs of the Standards of Quality.

Adopted by the Board of Education on February 21, 2008.

### ***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES***

Dr. Cannaday updated the Board on the status of work done by the working group associated with the Governor’s pre-school effort which deals with school readiness. Dr. Cannaday said that an Education News Week article cited Virginia as one of several states that do not have a definition of school readiness. Dr. Cannaday said staff will follow-up with the Secretary of Education to request that the Governor make a formal request to the state Board to adopt a definition for school readiness. After first review by the Board and public comment, the Board will take action on the definition of school readiness.

Dr. Ward commended the 89 schools that received the Governor’s VIP Award.

### ***DINNER SESSION***

The Board met for dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with the following members present: Dr. Emblidge, Dr. Brewster, Mrs. Castro, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Moore, Mr. Rotherham, Mrs. Saslaw and Dr. Ward. A brief discussion took place about general Board business. No votes were taken, and the dinner meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

### ***CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STATE 5-YEAR PLAN PUBLIC HEARING***

The following persons spoke during the public hearing:

1. Dr. Glenn DuBois, chancellor of VCCS
2. Stella Edwards, chair, education committee, VPTA
3. Johnny Cates, representative, Virginia Auto Dealer’s Association
4. Jessie White, director, career and technical education, Hampton City Public Schools, and president of Virginia Technical Education Association
5. Todd Perry, senior at Chesterfield Technical Center, Chesterfield County Public Schools
6. David Wyman, member of Chesterfield County School Board
7. Cecelia Donahue, manager, career and technical education Programs, Chesterfield County Public Schools

8. Alice Rose, principal, Perrymont Middle School, Chesterfield County Public Schools and member of CTE Advisory Committee, Chesterfield County Public Schools
9. Cal Greenish, member of CTE Advisory Committee, Chesterfield County Public Schools
10. Laurie Bailey, graduate of Chesterfield Technical Center, Chesterfield County Public Schools
11. Henry Mack, member of CTE Advisory Committee, Chesterfield County Public Schools
12. Barbara Jones, retired Phillip Morris employee and chair of CTE Advisory Committee, Chesterfield County Public Schools
13. Toney Rigali, member of Virginia State Building Construction Trades Association and member of CTE Advisory Committee, Chesterfield County Public Schools
14. Ashley Alvarez, senior at Cosby High School, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Dr. Emblidge adjourned The Career and Technical Education State 5-Year Plan public hearing at 11: 25 a.m.

#### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Dr. Ward made a motion to go into executive session under *Virginia Code 2.2-3711.A.7*, for consultation with legal counsel, staff members or consultants about actually commenced or specifically threatened litigation. Mrs. Castro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board adjourned for the Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

Dr. Ward made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brewster and carried unanimously. The Board reconvened at 11:55 a.m.

Dr. Ward made a motion that the Board certify by roll-call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried unanimously.

#### Board Roll call:

Dr. Brewster – Yes	Mrs. Saslaw – Yes
Mr. Rotherham – Yes	Mr. Johnson – Yes
Dr. Ward – Yes	Mr. Moore – Yes
Dr. Jones – Yes	Dr. Emblidge – Yes
Mrs. Castro – Yes	

The following motions were made:

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of Kelly Karl Bowman. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Castro and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of Cha-Tez Gipson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of Paul Lerner. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Castro and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of Thomas Nuckles. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Saslaw and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of William Joseph Sauer. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Castro and carried unanimously.

Dr. Ward made a motion to revoke the license of William Walker. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Castro and carried unanimously.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business of the Board of Education and Board of Career and Technical Education, Dr. Emblidge adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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President