

## **Summary of the Board of Education Meeting May 28, 2009**

### **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Recognitions**

The Board of Education presented resolutions of recognition to school divisions recently receiving SACS/CASI District Accreditation:

- Arlington County
- Bristol
- Montgomery County
- Westmoreland County
- Williamsburg-James City County

### **Approval of Minutes of the April 29-30, 2009, Meeting**

### **Public Comment**

- Sydnee Hammond, a former L.C. Bird High School student, discussed the value of having engineering class options in high school.
- Brayler Gongales, a former L.C. Bird High School student, discussed high school opportunities to study engineering.
- Sherry Harris, parent of a former L.C. Bird High School student, discussed the importance of exposing high school students to engineering.
- Dr. James Batterson discussed the science Standards of Learning (SOL).
- Senator Henry Marsh discussed his support of public education.
- Stephen Adkins, chief of the Chickahominy Tribe, discussed his concern over the possible elimination of the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.
- Sarah Gettes of JustChildren discussed revisions to the Standards of Quality.
- Karen Purcell, parent of a special education student, discussed revisions to the special education regulations.
- Bradley Purcell parent of a special education student, discussed special education regulation revisions.
- Ken Bassett, president of the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists & College Educators and Prince William County Public Schools' director of social studies education, expressed support for continuing to test third graders on history/social studies SOL content.
- Former Delegate James Dillard, on behalf of the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists & College Educators, discussed his objections to ending history/social studies SOL testing.
- Glen Hoptman, on behalf of Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists & College Educators and publisher of the Lightbeam Group/Studio, discussed his support for the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.
- Mike Wildasin, retired Fairfax County Public Schools history specialist, on behalf of Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists & College Educators, discussed his support for the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.
- Dr. Joseph Eney, professor emeritus of geographic science at James Madison University, representing Don Ziegel on behalf of Virginia geography teachers, discussed objections to ending history/social studies SOL testing in the third grade.

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- Margaret Heubeck, youth leadership initiative director of instruction at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, discussed concerns over the proposed elimination of the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.
- William Obrochta, director of education at the Virginia Historical Society, discussed the potential impact on museums if the third-grade history/social studies SOL test is eliminated.
- Breanne Armbrust discussed his support for retaining the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.
- Sarah Hopkins Finley, executive director of the Virginia Council on Economic Education, discussed her support of the third-grade history/social studies SOL test.

### Action and Discussion Items

Item	Action
First review: Re-adoption of revised <i>Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia</i>	The board waived first review and readopted the revised <i>Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia</i> and authorized VDOE staff to complete the requirements under the APA.
First review of a request to extend approval of an alternative accreditation plan from Chesterfield County Public Schools for Perrymont Middle School	The Board of Education accepted for first review Chesterfield County's request to extend approval for three years of an alternative accreditation plan for the middle school.
First review of proposed revisions of courses to satisfy graduation requirements for the standard, standard technical, advanced studies, advanced technical and modified standard diplomas in Virginia public schools	The board waived first review and accepted the proposed revised courses to satisfy graduation for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical and Modified Standard Diplomas in Virginia public schools.
First review of a request from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies to increase the number of standard credits required for graduation	The board waved first review and approved the request to increase the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School graduation requirements as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2009-2010 — 30 standard credits, including 5 credits in history and social science, and nine verified credits</li> <li>• Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2010-2011 — 31 standard credits — including the addition of one credit in economics and personal finance as required by the BOE</li> </ul>
First review of a proposal to establish a governor's career and technical academy: The Governor's Career and Technical Academy for Engineering Studies	The board waived first review and approved the proposal to establish the engineering studies academy at Chesterfield County Public School's Lloyd C. Bird High School.
First review of a proposal to eliminate Grade 3 history and social science from the Virginia Assessment Program	The board accepted for first review the proposal to remove the assessment from the Virginia Assessment Program and amended the proposal to include schedules for integrating history/social studies content into reading frameworks and assessments.
First review of a request for approval of an innovative program opening prior to Labor Day from Harrisonburg City Public Schools	The board waived first review and approved Harrisonburg's request to open before Labor Day to accommodate an innovative program, pursuant to the provisions of §.22.1-79.1 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> .

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**Reports**

The board accepted a report on Petersburg Public School's Career and Technical Education programs.

**Executive Session**

After returning from Executive Session, the board voted to authorize the Superintendent of Public Instruction to initiate, pursue or settle litigation on the board's behalf in connection with a pending administrative proceeding concerning an employment matter.

**Adjournment**

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