

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting June 25, 2009

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions

- The Board of Education presented a resolution of appreciation to Andrew J. Rotherham for his outstanding service as a member of the board from 2005 to 2009.
- The board also recognized Jean Bankos, senior advisor to the governor, who is retiring at the end of June.

Approval of Minutes of the May 28, 2009, board meeting

Public Comment

- Dr. Alan Seibert, superintendent, Salem Public Schools encouraged the board to review other accountability and assessment models.
- Dr. Kitty Boitnott, president, Virginia Education Association, discussed testing issues.
- Ken Bassett, president, Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists & College Educators, discussed SOL testing issues.
- Meg Heubeck, director of instruction, Youth Leadership Initiative of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, discussed the importance of civics and social studies education.
- Glen Hoptman of the Commission on Civics Education discussed the need for a review of testing and assessments.
- Dr. James Batterson of Suffolk discussed the chemistry and physics SOL.
- Daniel Edwards, chairman, Virginia Beach School Board, encouraged the board to consider a statewide standardized grading scale.
- Carolyn Weems of the Virginia Beach School Board discussed a statewide standardized grading scale.
- Patrick Salyer of the Virginia Beach School Board voiced his support for a statewide standardized grading scale.
- Richard McCluney, vice president of productions, publications and learning ventures, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, discussed the availability of civics and history educational resources.
- Sarah Geddes of JustChildren discussed truancy data and reporting.
- Dr. M. Rick Turner, branch president, Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP, discussed testing and Standards of Quality issues.
- Sarah Hopkins Finley, executive director, Virginia Council on Economic Education, discussed the proposed economics and financial standards.
- Stephen Adkins, chief, Chickahominy Tribe, discussed history testing issues.
- Adisa Muse of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus discussed SOL testing issues.
- Robin Poulton, president, Virginia Friends of Mali, submitted written comments.

Action and Discussion Items

| Item | Action |
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| Final review of a proposal regarding grade-3 history and social science assessment and a timeline for revising grade-3 reading assessment | <p>The board authorized the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin developing Grade-3 History/Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments based on the revised 2008 history/social science SOL and curriculum framework; • continue to administer the current grade-3 assessment until the new tests are completed; and • continue with the proposed timeline for including reading passages and associated items on the grade-3 reading tests based on K-3 history and social science content standards and content in other SOL subject areas concurrent with the implementation of tests based on the revised English reading standards scheduled for adoption in 2010. |

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| First review of proposed economics and personal finance SOL | The board accepted for first review the proposed economics and finance SOL. The work plan for the proposed SOL calls for public hearings, final review and adoption of the SOL by January 2010 and as a graduation requirement for students entering the ninth grade in 2010-2011. Following final approval by the board, VDOE staff will begin work on an accompanying curriculum framework. |
| First review of a request to extend approval of alternative accreditation plans from Henrico County Public Schools for Mount Vernon Middle School and New Bridge Middle School | The board waived first review and approved the request to extend approval of alternative accreditation plans for three years for the two Henrico County middle schools |
| First review of proposed guidelines for the Neighborhood Assistance Program for Education | The board waived first review, approved the proposed guidelines and authorized VDOE staff to post the guidelines on its Web site and implement the guidelines effective July 1, 2009. |
| First review of the proposed template for school divisions to display annual report of expenditures (HB 2269) | The board waived first review and approved the proposed template for distribution to local school divisions. The board also authorized the superintendent of public instruction to make minor modifications to the template, as necessary, to conform to the Annual School Report format. VDOE staff will disseminate template information to school divisions for making annual expenditure reports available to the public and for posting on their Web sites. |
| First review of revisions to criteria for the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) | The board accepted the proposed revisions to the VIP program for first review. Final review of changes to the awards criteria is expected by the board at its July 2009 meeting. |
| First review of pupil transportation specifications for school buses | The board accepted the proposed school bus specifications for first review and requested that staff post the proposed specifications on VDOE's Web site for 30 days to provide an opportunity to offer comments. Depending on the number of comments, final review is expected at either the July or September 2009 board meeting. |

Discussion of Current Issues by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Dr. Ella Ward commended Dr. Emblidge on his June 22, 2009, election as vice chair of the Southern Regional Education Board.

Adjournment

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