

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September 17, 2009

**Topic:** First Review of a Revised Memorandum of Understanding for Sussex County Public Schools to Include Compliance with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) 8 VAC 20-131-315

**Presenter:** Dr. Kathleen M. Smith, Director, Office of School Improvement, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement

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## Origin:

\_\_\_\_ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

\_\_\_\_ Board review required by

\_\_\_\_ State or federal law or regulation

\_\_\_\_ Board of Education regulation

\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Action requested at this meeting     Action requested at future meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

## Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

\_\_\_\_ Previous review/action

date \_\_\_\_\_

action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

The Standards of Quality require local school boards to maintain fully accredited schools and to take corrective actions for schools that are not fully accredited.

§ 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

...Each local school board shall maintain schools that are fully accredited pursuant to the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. Each local school board shall review the accreditation status of all schools in the local school division annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the standards as approved by the Board.

In October 2004, the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) established criteria for identifying low-performing school divisions to undergo a division-level academic review. Sussex County Public Schools met the criteria for division-level academic review as indicated in Section 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation:

...When the Board of Education has obtained evidence through the school academic review process that the failure of schools within a division to achieve full accreditation status is related to division level failure to implement the Standards of Quality, the Board may require a division level academic review. After the conduct of such review and within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit for approval by the Board a corrective action plan, consistent with criteria established by the Board and setting forth specific actions and a schedule designed to ensure that schools within its school division achieve full accreditation status. Such corrective action plans shall be part of the relevant school division's comprehensive plan pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:6.

In 2004, recognizing the need for technical assistance, the Sussex County Public Schools requested a division-level review and assistance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Sussex County Public Schools and the VBOE signed an initial memorandum of understanding (MOU) detailing the review process on December 9, 2004.

Sussex County Public Schools has been in division-level review status since 2004 and has reported to the VBOE regularly on the status of implementing the corrective action plan and the terms of the initial MOU. The VDOE has provided ongoing technical assistance and monitored the implementation of the division's corrective action plan

As indicated in 8 VAC 20-131-315 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA), the *Conditionally Accredited* rating may be granted for a period not to exceed three years if the school is making progress toward a rating of *Fully Accredited* in accordance with the terms of the VBOE's approval of the reconstitution application. The regulation also indicates that the school will revert to a status of *Accreditation Denied* if it fails to meet the requirements to be rated *Fully Accredited* by the end of the three-year term. Based on assessments in 2008-2009, Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School has failed to achieve a status of *Fully Accredited* for the past three years while granted a status of *Conditional Accreditation*. Based on assessment data for the 2008-2009, Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School has a status of *Accreditation Denied*.

Sussex Central Middle School was reconstituted for 2009-2010 to serve all students in the county in grades four through seven. For accountability purposes, the reconstituted middle school received the same school number as Annie B. Jackson Elementary School which is now closed. The accreditation rating of *Accredited with Warning* for Sussex Central Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year is based on assessments provided in 2008-2009 for Annie B. Jackson Elementary School (school number 0020). The assessment data for 2008-2009 for Sussex Central Middle School (school number 0480), *Conditionally Accredited* in 2008-2009, indicates that the school did meet accreditation benchmarks. Accreditation data for all Sussex County Public Schools is included in Attachment A.

Additionally, Section 8 VAC 20-131-315 of the SOA, adopted by the VBOE in September 2006, requires school divisions with *Accreditation Denied* schools to enter into a MOU with the VBOE and implement a corrective action plan to improve student achievement in the identified schools. Since

Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School is in denied status for 2009-2010 based on 2008-2009 assessments, a MOU is required.

**Summary of Major Elements:**

Since Sussex County Public Schools continues to have schools accredited with warning and in denied status, the MOU for division-level academic review will serve as the MOU to satisfy Section 8 VAC 20-131-315.

Attachment B is the proposed MOU for Sussex County Public Schools. An auditor will be assigned to Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School. The auditor will provide a monthly report to the Office of School Improvement regarding the implementation of the mathematics and reading programs in grades K-7. The principal at Sussex Central Middle School has asked that the Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS) coach return this year to help implement the reconstitution plan to incorporate grades four through seven.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and accept the attached MOU.

**Impact on Resources:**

None

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Sussex County Public Schools will provide monthly and quarterly data as required to the Office of School Improvement.

School Division: 091 - Sussex County Public Schools  
 School: 0020 - Sussex Central Middle \*\*\*  
 Grade Range: 04 to 07  
 Title1 Status: Title I -SchWide

Preliminary Accreditation Status this Year: Accredited with Warning: Warned in English, Math, History  
 Accreditation Status Last Year: Fully Accredited

Subject	Data Source	Number of Students		Score	Benchmark	Met Benchmark?
		Students Passing	Students Taking			
Grade 3 - 5 English	Current Year	116	161	72 %	75 %	No
	3-year average	363	514	71 %		
Mathematics	Current Year	77	111	69 %	70 %	No
	3-year average	236	351	67 %		
History	Current Year	32	57	56 %	70 %	No
	3-year average	97	158	61 %		
Science	Current Year	42	52	81 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	110	158	70 %		

Number of Benchmarks Met: 1 of 4

Notes: Preliminary accreditation ratings for this school were calculated on Aug 11,2009 based on data received from the testing vendor on Aug 05,2009. Because the data are preliminary, not all student scores may be included in these results. Refer to the "Number of Students" columns for the actual number of student test results included in these ratings.

School Division: 091 - Sussex County Public Schools  
 School: 0050 - Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary \*\*\*  
 Grade Range: KG to 03  
 Title1 Status: Title I -SchWide

Preliminary Accreditation Status this Year: Accreditation Denied: Warned in English

Accreditation Status Last Year: Conditionally Accredited: Warned in English

Subject	Data Source	Number of Students		Score	Benchmark	Met Benchmark?
		Students Passing	Students Taking			
Grade 3 - 5 English	Current Year	39	65	60 %	75 %	No
	3-year average	120	182	66 %		
Mathematics	Current Year	37	66	56 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	147	192	77 %		
Grade 3 History	Current Year	54	66	82 %	50 %	Yes
	3-year average	143	168	85 %		
Grade 3 Science	Current Year	41	65	63 %	50 %	Yes
	3-year average	122	168	73 %		

Number of Benchmarks Met: 3 of 4

Notes: Preliminary accreditation ratings for this school were calculated on Aug 11,2009 based on data received from the testing vendor on Aug 05,2009. Because the data are preliminary, not all student scores may be included in these results. Refer to the "Number of Students" columns for the actual number of student test results included in these ratings.

Virginia Department of Education  
Office of School Improvement  
School Accreditation Detail Report  
PRELIMINARY - Not for public release  
2009-2010 School Year  
Based on the data from the 2008-2009 School Year

School Division: 091 - Sussex County Public Schools  
School: 0340 - Sussex Central High \*\*\*  
Grade Range: 08 to 12  
Title1 Status: Not Title1

Preliminary Accreditation Status this Year: Fully Accredited

Accreditation Status Last Year: Fully Accredited

Subject	Data Source	Number of Students		Score	Benchmark	Met Benchmark?
		Students Passing	Students Taking			
English	Current Year	145	163	89 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	524	602	87 %		
Mathematics	Current Year	218	274	80 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	698	911	77 %		
History	Current Year	204	241	85 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	706	835	85 %		
Science	Current Year	209	274	76 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	610	805	76 %		

Number of Benchmarks Met: 4 of 4

Notes: Preliminary accreditation ratings for this school were calculated on Aug 11,2009 based on data received from the testing vendor on Aug 05,2009. Because the data are preliminary, not all student scores may be included in these results. Refer to the "Number of Students" columns for the actual number of student test results included in these ratings.

School Division: 091 - Sussex County Public Schools  
 School: 0380 - Jefferson Elementary \*\*\*  
 Grade Range: KG to 03  
 Title1 Status: Title I -SchWide

Preliminary Accreditation Status this Year: Fully Accredited

Accreditation Status Last Year: Fully Accredited

Subject	Data Source	Number of Students		Score	Benchmark	Met Benchmark?
		Students Passing	Students Taking			
Grade 3 - 5 English	Current Year	102	126	81 %	75 %	Yes
	3-year average	313	373	84 %		
Mathematics	Current Year	79	95	83 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	248	298	83 %		
Grade 3 History	Current Year	21	27	78 %	50 %	Yes
	3-year average	81	95	85 %		
History	Current Year	25	29	86 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	70	84	83 %		
Grade 3 Science	Current Year	22	28	79 %	50 %	Yes
	3-year average	78	95	82 %		
Science	Current Year	28	33	85 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	73	84	87 %		

Number of Benchmarks Met: 6 of 6

Notes: Preliminary accreditation ratings for this school were calculated on Aug 11,2009 based on data received from the testing vendor on Aug 05,2009. Because the data are preliminary, not all student scores may be included in these results. Refer to the "Number of Students" columns for the actual number of student test results included in these ratings.

School Division: 091 - Sussex County Public Schools  
 School: 0481 - Sussex Central Middle \*\*\*  
 Grade Range: 06 to 08  
 Title1 Status: Not Title1

Preliminary Accreditation Status this Year: Fully Accredited

Accreditation Status Last Year: Conditionally Accredited: Warned in Math

Subject	Data Source	Number of Students		Score	Benchmark	Met Benchmark?
		Students Passing	Students Taking			
English	Current Year	326	391	83 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	995	1240	80 %		
Mathematics	Current Year	260	311	84 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	727	1013	72 %		
History	Current Year	80	81	99 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	261	292	89 %		
Science	Current Year	82	93	88 %	70 %	Yes
	3-year average	249	302	82 %		

Number of Benchmarks Met: 4 of 4

Notes: Preliminary accreditation ratings for this school were calculated on Aug 11,2009 based on data received from the testing vendor on Aug 05,2009. Because the data are preliminary, not all student scores may be included in these results. Refer to the "Number of Students" columns for the actual number of student test results included in these ratings.

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUSSEX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
Goals and Expected Outcomes  
School Years 2009-2011**

**Background**

The Standards of Quality require local school boards to maintain fully accredited schools and to take corrective actions for schools that are not fully accredited.

§ 22.1-253.13:3. Standard 3. Accreditation, other standards and evaluation.

...Each local school board shall maintain schools that are fully accredited pursuant to the standards of accreditation as prescribed by the Board of Education. Each local school board shall review the accreditation status of all schools in the local school division annually in public session. Within the time specified by the Board of Education, each school board shall submit corrective action plans for any schools within its school division that have been designated as not meeting the standards as approved by the Board.

The *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA), adopted by the Board in September 2006, Section 8 VAC 20-131.315 requires school divisions with Accreditation Denied schools to enter into a MOU with the VBOE and implement a corrective action plan to improve student achievement in the identified schools.

8 VAC 20-131-315. Action requirements for schools that are denied accreditation.

B. Any school rated Accreditation Denied in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-300 shall be subject to actions prescribed by the Board of Education and affirmed through a memorandum of understanding between the Board of Education and the local school board. The local school board shall submit a corrective action plan to the Board of Education for its consideration in prescribing actions in the memorandum of understanding within 45 days of the notification of the rating. The memorandum of understanding shall be entered into no later than November 1 of the academic year in which the rating is awarded.

The local board shall submit status reports detailing implementation of actions prescribed by the memorandum of understanding to the Board of Education. The status reports shall be signed by the school principal, division superintendent, and the chair of the local school board. The school principal, division superintendent, and the chair of the local school board may be required to appear before the Board of Education to present status reports.

## **School Division Goals and Performance Objectives**

The Sussex County School Board and central office staff will implement key priorities for improving student achievement at Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School and Sussex Central Middle School ensuring alignment of resources with these priorities for improving student achievement, and holding the board and staff accountable for results. These priorities must align with the expectations in this memorandum of understanding (MOU) and the following areas of focus:

- Shared Leadership Between the Central Office and School to Raise Student Achievement
- Teacher Quality

Since Sussex County Public Schools continues to have schools *Accredited with Warning* and in *Accreditation Denied* status, the MOU for division-level academic review will serve as the MOU to satisfy Section 8 VAC 20-131-315.

The following performance objectives are established.

### Shared Leadership Between the Central Office and School

1. The central office staff and principals under the direction of the superintendent will plan, implement and monitor a new basal reading program (Scott Foresman). The central office leadership team and principal will continue to implement and monitor the mathematics program (Saxon Mathematics).
2. The central office staff and principals under the direction of the superintendent will provide monthly written reports on the implementation of reading and mathematics initiatives at Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School and Sussex Central Middle School to include activities planned, activities completed, timelines, participation targets, and student outcomes to the Sussex County School Board and the Department of Education.
3. The central office staff and principal under the direction of the superintendent will meet monthly with the assigned auditor as well as reading and mathematics consultants to discuss the implementation of the reading and mathematics program at Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School. The auditor will clear all appointments to visit the school with the superintendent in advance of the visit. Governance meetings will take place as scheduled by the superintendent and will be limited to after school whenever possible.
4. The central office staff and principals under the direction of the superintendent will implement a data monitoring process with accountability for results and link school and division professional development to improving student achievement as supported by assessment results and other data.
5. At the request of the principal, a Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS) coach will continue working at Sussex Central Middle School.

6. Using the quarterly report approved by the Department of Education, the central office staff and principals under the direction of the superintendent will provide the department data as required and will include recommendations for modifications to the corrective action plan that demonstrate accountability for results.

### Teacher Quality

1. The central office staff and principals under the direction of the superintendent will develop and monitor individual action plans to reduce provisional license.
2. Sussex County Public Schools will commit to hiring personnel who are the most qualified for the position vacancy.
3. Sussex County Public Schools will provide written reports as requested by the Virginia Board of Education (as needed and appropriate) on current instructional vacancies, number of teachers on provisional licenses, and progress on individual action plans to reach full licensure.

### **Status Reports to the Virginia Board of Education**

A corrective action plan will be submitted as required to the Virginia Board of Education as required in 8 VAC 20-131-315 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* for Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary School.

8 VAC 20-131-315. Action requirements for schools that are denied accreditation.

A. Any school rated Accreditation Denied in accordance with 8 VAC 20-131-300 shall be subject to actions prescribed by the Board of Education and shall provide parents of enrolled students and other interested parties with the following:

1. Written notice of the school's accreditation rating within 30 calendar days of the notification of the rating from the Department of Education;
2. A copy of the school division's proposed corrective action plan, including a timeline for implementation, to improve the school's accreditation rating; and
3. An opportunity to comment on the division's proposed corrective action plan.

Such public comment shall be received and considered by the school division prior to finalizing the school's corrective action plan and a Board of Education memorandum of understanding with the local school board.

The Sussex County School Board will provide a summative report on progress made in meeting or exceeding MOU agreements and expectations to the Virginia Board of Education and the Department of Education, as requested.

**Authorizations**

I (We) agree to work collaboratively to implement the requirements of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the purpose of improving student achievement in Sussex County Public Schools.

<p><b>Printed Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Chair, Sussex County Public Schools</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>Printed Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Superintendent, Sussex County Public Schools</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>
<p><b>Printed Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Title:</b> President, Virginia Board of Education</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>Printed Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Superintendent of Public Instruction</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>