

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ F. _____

Date: _____ October 22, 2009 _____

Topic: First Review of a Report on Career and Technical Education Programs in Petersburg City Public Schools

Presenter: Dr. Kathleen M. Smith, Director, Office of School Improvement, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement
Dr. James M. Victory, Superintendent, Petersburg City Public Schools

Telephone Number: (804) 225-2865 **E-Mail Address:** Kathleen.Smith@doe.virginia.gov

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

X Previous review/action
date May 28, 2009
action Board requested additional information regarding the Career and Technical Education programs in Petersburg City Public Schools

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. Petersburg City 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 Petersburg School Board requested a division-level review and assistance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Petersburg City Public Schools and the VBOE signed an initial memorandum of understanding (MOU) detailing the review process on April 21, 2004. Petersburg City 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.

Additionally, the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA) require 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 Petersburg City Public Schools had schools in *Accreditation Denied* status for the 2007-2008 academic year based on 2006-2007 results, the VBOE determined that the MOU for division-level academic review would also serve as the MOU to satisfy Section 8 VAC 20-131-310. As a part of this MOU, a corrective action plan was developed.

The MOU requires the Petersburg School Board to provide a summative report on progress made in meeting or exceeding the MOU agreements and expectations to the VBOE and the VDOE, as requested. At the April 23, 2008, meeting of the Virginia Board of Education, School and Division Accountability Committee, members of the committee requested information on the following:

1. the number of students enrolled in alternative education programs and their status in these programs;
2. the number of students enrolled in the Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP); and,
3. the number of unlicensed teachers (substitute teachers) by core content area in which they are teaching.

At the May 21, 2008, Virginia Board of Education meeting, a report containing the requested information was presented by department staff. At this time, the VBOE requested that a follow-up review be completed in the fall of 2008 to determine if the alternative education programs in Petersburg City Public Schools including the ISAEP program were in compliance with the Standards of Quality and the Standards of Accreditation.

The department conducted an academic review of the alternative programs in Petersburg City Public Schools on December 11-12, 2008. The review team consisted of VDOE staff and peer reviewers from other school divisions. The following essential actions were presented to Petersburg City Schools as part of the December 11-12, 2008 review:

- Align Horizons Program curriculum with skills necessary for transition to programs leading to a standard or advanced studies diploma or to a GED (ISAEP) program.
- Adhere to procedures for student placement that allow for parent input and are conducted in a timely manner.
- Secure the needed resources and materials for students and teachers (i.e., textbooks).
- Provide access to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to the students enrolled in the Career Preparedness Program (CPP).
- Provide early intervention in elementary and middle school programs to reduce the need for alternative programs.

One of the concerns of the review team was that the CTE courses provided to students enrolled in the CPP program would not lead to a program completion upon graduation. For example, students are enrolled in Landscaping (course code 8036). There are other courses needed for a program concentration in Landscaping that lead to program completion upon graduation. These courses are not offered at Blandford Academy.

The CPP program provides high school students, age 16 or older and at least two grade-levels behind, with an opportunity to work toward successfully meeting the criteria for a certificate of completion, not a traditional or nontraditional diploma (GED).

At the January 15, 2009, Virginia Board of Education meeting, the Board accepted the findings of the review of alternative education programs in Petersburg City Public Schools and requested the department to complete a follow-up visit in the spring of 2009 to ensure that essential actions were being implemented.

The VDOE conducted a third review of the alternative programs in Petersburg City Public Schools on March 30, 2009, and as a result of that review, the following findings regarding Career and Technical Education at Blandford Academy were indicated:

Provide access to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to the students enrolled in the CPP program. Interviews with students and teachers revealed that ISAEP, Horizons, and CPP students participate in the CTE programs at the high school twice a week after school. These practices were implemented during the start of the second semester of the 2008-2009 school year. These programs do not offer a program concentration that leads to program completion upon graduation. Two orientation programs for parents of Blandford Academy students were conducted to introduce the seven course offerings for the CTE program at Petersburg High School.

At the time of the review on March 30, 2009, current enrollment of ISAEP, Horizons, and CPP students who were participating in the CTE program after school at Petersburg High School were as follows:

- three students were enrolled in the carpentry program (one additional student was scheduled to begin on March 30, 2009);

- three students are enrolled in the child-care program (three additional students were scheduled to begin on March 30, 2009);
- two students were scheduled to begin the personal care aide program beginning on March 30, 2009;
- one student was scheduled to begin in the automotive program on March 30, 2009; and,
- one student was enrolled in the culinary arts program.

At the May 28, 2009, Virginia Board of Education meeting, the Board accepted the findings of the review of alternative education programs in Petersburg City Public Schools and requested the department to complete a follow-up visit in the fall of 2009 to ensure that CPP students are receiving certified CTE courses as described in the essential actions based on the follow-up review.

Summary of Major Elements

In a report submitted by Petersburg City Public Schools regarding the Blandford Academy students enrolled in CTE courses offered at Petersburg High School for the fall of 2009, the following data were indicated:

Course Code	Description	Number of Students Enrolled
8600	Basic Carpentry	1
8709	Auto Maintenance	1
8250	Introduction to Culinary Arts	6
8234	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	1
8511	Basic Masonry	3*
8403	Technology Foundations	7
8161	Hotel/Motel Services	5
8542	Computer Networking	3
TOTAL		26

*One student is completing an internship as a barber and is counted in Basic Masonry as well.

Superintendent's Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and accept the report from Petersburg City Public Schools on the enrollment of Blandford Academy students in CTE programs at Petersburg High School.

Impact on Resources: None

Timetable for Further Review/Action: None



Petersburg City Public Schools

BLANDFORD ACADEMY

CAREER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (CPP) STUDENTS
 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ENROLLMENT AT PETERSBURG HIGH
 SCHOOL (PHS)

All Classes @ Block 2 at PHS - 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Enrolled CPP Students	Home School	Last Grade Assigned	CTE Class @ PHS	Course Code	Teacher ID
1	VJJH	9	Basic Carpentry	8600	105274
2	VJJH	9	Auto Maintenance	8709	102873
3	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8250	101247
4	VJJH	9	Technology Foundation	8403	105026
5	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8250	101247
6	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8403	101247
7	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8403	101247
8	VJJH	9	Intro. Early Childhood Education	8234	102245
9	VJJH	9	Technology Foundation	8403	105026
10	VJJH	9	Basic Masonry	8511	102795
11	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8250	101247
12	VJJH	9	Technology Foundation	8403	105026
13	VJJH	9	Intro. Culinary Arts	8403	101247
CPP Students	Home School	Last Grade Assigned	CTE Class @ PHS	Course Code	Teacher ID
14	VJJH	9	Basic Masonry & Internship @Allusions Barber Shop	8511	102795
15	VJJH	9	Basic Masonry	8511	102795
16	VJJH	9	Technology Foundations	8403	105026
17	VJJH	10	Technology Foundations	8403	105026
18	VJJH	9	Technology Foundations	8403	105026
19	VJJH	9	Hotel/Motel	8161	101062
20	PHS	10	Computer Network	8542	102269
21	PHS	10	Hotel/Motel	8161	101062
22	PHS	9	Hotel/Motel	8161	101062
23	VJJH	9	Hotel/Motel	8161	101062
24	VJJH	9	Computer Network	8542	102269
25	VJJH	9	Computer Network	8542	102269
26	VJJH	9	Technology Foundations	8403	105026
27	VJJH	9	Hotel/Motel	8161	101062