

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: C .

Date: June 24, 2010

Topic: First Review of a Request for Approval of Waivers of 8 VAC 20-110-50 of the *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records* and 8 VAC 20-131-240 of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* from Richmond City Public Schools

Presenter: Ms. Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communication
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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: July 22, 2010

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information: The *Code of Virginia*, in §§ 22.1-212.6 and 22.1-212.7, permits the Board of Education to release a public charter school from state regulations. These sections of the *Code of Virginia* say, in part:

§ 22.1-212.6. Establishment and operation of public charter schools; requirements.

...Pursuant to a charter contract and as specified in § [22.1-212.7](#), a public charter school may operate free from specified school division policies and state regulations, and, as public schools, shall be subject to the requirements of the Standards of Quality, including the Standards of Learning and the Standards of Accreditation....

§ 22.1-212.7. Contracts for public charter schools; release from certain policies and regulations.

...Such contract between the public charter school and the local school board or relevant school boards shall reflect all requests for release of the public charter school from state regulations, consistent with the requirements of subsection B of § [22.1-212.6](#). The local school board or relevant school boards, on behalf of the public charter school, shall request such releases from the Board of Education....

On June 24, 1999, the Board adopted Resolution Number 1999-8 that identified regulations that could be waived for charter schools. The resolution included 8 VAC 20-110-50 of the *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records*. This regulation states:

8 VAC 20-110-50. Approval of school-sponsored field trips and other activities.

All school-sponsored field trips and other activities or events for which pupil attendance may be counted shall be approved through procedures adopted by the school board.

Summary of Major Elements: Richmond City Public Schools (RPS) is requesting approval of a waiver of 8 VAC 20-110-50 of the *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records* for Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, a charter school serving grades K-5. Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is a public charter school operating under a contractual arrangement with Richmond City Public Schools. It plans to open this summer for the 2010-2011 school year.

The waiver request from Richmond City Public Schools says that “PHSSA will frequently conduct walking trips and other excursions approved by parents of pupils, but that will not be approved through procedures adopted by the local school board.” The request further states that “PHSSA must develop procedures for planning and approving field trips in place of those already in place for RPS, to include a detailed itinerary, SOL alignment, list of potential hazards and procedures for handling emergency situations, which will be submitted to the local school board.” The procedures will be reported to the Richmond School Board, but will not be approved by the Richmond School Board.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the request from Richmond Public Schools to waive 8 VAC 20-110-50 for Patrick Henry School for Science and the Arts. The procedures for field trips and other activities and events would be approved by the parents, and would be reported to, but not approved by, the Richmond School Board.

Impact on Resources: The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The request will be presented to the Board of Education for final review at the July 22, 2010 meeting.