

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting March 24, 2011

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions

Approval of Minutes of the February 17, 2011, meeting

Board President Eleanor Saslaw announced the appointment of Board Member Betsy Beamer as the liaison to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)

Public Comment

- Dr. Charol Shakeshaft, professor and chairperson of Educational Leadership at Virginia Commonwealth University, discussed the proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct & Abuse in Virginia Public Schools.
- Dr. Tom Smith, Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), discussed the proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct & Abuse in Virginia Public Schools.
- Angela Ciolfi, legal director for the JustChildren, discussed suspension and expulsion policies
- Karen Richardson, executive director of the Virginia Society for Technology Education (VSTE), discussed the proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct & Abuse in Virginia Public Schools.
- David Anderson, representative for the Association of American Publishers, discussed textbook review processes.
- Wendell Roberts, Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), discussed the proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct & Abuse in Virginia Public Schools.

Action and Discussion Items

Item	Action
Final review of proposed revisions to Virginia School Bus Specifications	The board approved the proposed bus specifications revisions.
Final review of a recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) to approve a cut score and implementation dates for the Praxis Braille Proficiency Test	The board approved ABTEL's recommendations to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. set a passing score of 168 for individuals seeking an initial Virginia license with an endorsement in Special Education-Visual Impairments 2. establish an implementation date of July 1, 2011, for the assessment, except for individuals completing the approved Virginia Visual Impairments Consortium program who must meet the assessment requirement effective July 1, 2012.
Final review of a recommendation of ABTEL to approve a cut score for the Praxis Technology Education Assessment	The board approved ABTEL's recommendation and adopted a cut score of 162 for individuals seeking an initial Virginia license with an endorsement in Technology Education.
Final review of a recommendation of ABTEL to approve a cut score on the Praxis Art: Content Knowledge Assessment	The board approved ABTEL's recommendation and adopted a cut score of 158 for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Visual Arts PreK-12.
Final review of recommended cut scores for the Grade 3, Virginia Studies, U.S. History to 1865, U.S. History: 1865 to the Present and Civics & Economics Standards of Learning (SOL) tests based on the 2008 history standards	The board adopted the following cut scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3 - 23 for pass/proficient and 35 for pass/advanced • Virginia Studies - 21 for pass/proficient and 32 for pass/advanced • U.S. History to 1865 - 22 for pass/proficient and 34 for pass/advanced • U.S. History: 1865 to the Present - 22 for pass/proficient and 34 for pass/advanced • Civics & Economics - 21 for pass/proficient and 34 for pass/advanced Information on the adopted cut scores will be disseminated to the school divisions via a Superintendent's Memorandum.

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Final review of Guidelines to Implement the Provisions of Section 22.1-302(A) of the Code of Virginia Pertaining to the Employment of Substitute Teachers	The board approved the proposed guidelines. Information on the adopted guidelines will be disseminated to the school divisions via a Superintendent's Memorandum.
Final review of Virginia's proposed revised textbook review process	The board adopted the proposed revised textbook review process with technical edits and directed Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff to utilize the adopted process for all future textbooks brought to the board for approval. Information on the adopted revised textbook review process will be posted on the VDOE website.
Actions related to Five Ponds Press	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board withdrew its approval of two textbooks: Our Virginia: Past and Present (1st edition) and Our America to 1865 (1st edition), published in each case by Five Ponds Press, from the list of approved history and social science textbooks. 2. Given that a number of school divisions have previously purchased the two textbooks: Our Virginia: Past and Present (1st edition) and Our America to 1865 (1st edition), which have now been removed from the Board's list of approved history and social science textbooks, and Given that Five Ponds Press has stated its intention to produce a second edition that corrects errors present in the first editions and to replace the first editions now in the classrooms with the improved second editions, without charge to the school divisions that purchased the previous versions of the textbooks; and Given that school divisions deserve to know whether the second edition is satisfactory to the Board; The Board directed that, in the event that Five Ponds Press seeks an expedited review of the second edition of the two textbooks, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Receive and review the request from Five Ponds Press in accordance with the terms of the Board's newly adopted textbook review process, and b. Bring to the Board a recommendation regarding the approval of the replacement editions. 3. Based on the review of the history and social studies textbooks produced by Five Ponds Press and approved by the Board for use in grades K-3 and because the Board plans to take no action to remove the books from the list of textbooks approved by the Board, the Board directed the Superintendent to request from Five Ponds Press a corrective action plan to respond to such errors in the textbooks as have been identified. [Five Ponds Press' K-3 history and social science books are Our World Let's Go!, Our World Then & Now, Our World Near & Far, and Our World Far & Wide. The reviews of these books were sent to school divisions via a Superintendent's E-mail on March 2, 2011.]
Final review of proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct & Abuse in Virginia Public Schools	The board approved the amended proposed guidelines as a resource for school divisions. The guidelines will be posted on the VDOE website.
First review of a request for approval of an innovative program opening prior to Labor Day from Alexandria Public Schools	The board accepted for first review Alexandria's request. The board is expected to consider this for final action at the April 28, 2011, meeting.

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First review of a request for continuation of an alternative accreditation plan from Danville Public Schools for J. M. Langston Focus School	The board accepted for first review Danville's request. The board is expected to consider this for final action at the April 28, 2011, meeting.
First review of a request for continuation of an alternative accreditation plan from Richmond Public Schools for Richmond Alternative School	The board accepted for first review Richmond's request. The board is expected to consider this for final action at the April 28, 2011, meeting.
First review of revised Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards & Evaluation Criteria for Teachers and Virginia Standards for the Professional Practice of Teachers	The board accepted for first review the revised guidance documents. The board is expected to consider them for final action at the April 28, 2011, meeting.
First review of process for state approval of textbooks for K-12 English/Language Arts and K-12 Science	The board waived first review and granted approval for VDOE staff to proceed with the review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 English/Language Arts textbooks beginning in April 2011 • K-12 Science textbooks beginning in September 2011.

Reports

- Report on Legislative and Budget Actions by the 2011 General Assembly

Adjournment

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