

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Work Session
October 26, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Opening Comments – Mrs. Saslaw convened the session with the following members present: Mrs. Sears, Mr. Foster, Dr. Cannaday, Dr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Castro, Mr. Krupicka, Mrs. Beamer, and Mr. Braunlich. Dr. Wright, superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

Discussion of the Draft Report: 2011 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia - Mrs. Saslaw opened the meeting. The Board reviewed each section of the draft report.

Dr. Cannaday commented that the Executive summary should include additional information regarding workplace skills and also commented that the summary should link to the comprehensive plan, to which Mrs. Beamer agreed. Dr. Cannaday also commented on the need to emphasize ‘static’ resources, or resources that are not growing even though the work of the Board is becoming more complex.

Mrs. Castro commented on the importance of foreign languages and Mrs. Saslaw commented on the importance of emphasizing college and career readiness.

Mrs. Sears asked some clarifying questions about the increase in the accredited with warning ratings for schools and about the designation of highly qualified teachers. Mr. Braunlich asked a clarifying question regarding other studies cited in the report.

Mr. Krupicka expressed concern about unfunded K-12 mandates. Dr. McLaughlin asked if additional information could be put in the Executive Summary regarding the mission and vision of the Board. Mr. Braunlich asked about the achievement gap and the on-time graduation rate and how the information for Virginia compares to other states. Mr. Foster commented on the importance of defending resources.

Mr. Krupicka commented on the need to mention incentive pay initiatives and Dr. Cannaday commented on the need to invest in professional development. Dr. Wright remarked that the report does make mention of the Board’s work in the area of Standards of Quality legislation and that perhaps there needs to be mention of the number of diplomas currently established in state law. Mr. Krupicka mentioned the importance of having a diploma aligned with college and career readiness.

Mrs. Sears mentioned the catalog of federal mandates and the number of mandates devoted to public education. Dr. McLaughlin referenced the need to mention data points in some of the goals outlined in the report and Mr. Braunlich commented on the need to reference students who

are unserved regarding pre-school in Virginia in response to Mrs. Saslaw's comment that the 'Foundation Blocks' of early learning should be mentioned in the report.

Mrs. Sears inquired as to whether pre-Labor Day information needs to be included in the report. She also commented on how effectiveness could be measured. Mr. Foster commented that there needed to be a reference to the Board's guidelines regarding bullying in the report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.