

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Work Session
July 25, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

Mr. David M. Foster, President, called the meeting to order with the following Board members present: Mrs. Atkinson, Dr. Cannaday, Ms. Mack, Dr. McLaughlin, Mr. Braunlich, and Mrs. Sears. Dr. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Mr. Foster provided welcoming remarks and discussed the Board's responsibility to update the Board's Comprehensive Plan biennially. The purpose of this meeting was to review proposed revisions and discuss updates to the plan.

Presentation to the Board and Discussion

Melissa Luchau, director for board relations, presented proposed revisions to the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan: 2012-2017. Her presentation outlined the major components of the plan, including the Board's mission, goals, an assessment of the extent to which the goals are being met, strategies for improving student achievement, enrollment trends and forecast, and identifying challenges in public education. The proposed revisions to the plan include:

- Adding a section to highlight the Board's top priorities, including accountability, educator professionalism, and community engagement.
- Revising the "expanded opportunities to learn" goal to include charter schools, lab schools, virtual learning, STEM academies, and other educational options.
- Adding a "rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness" goal, focused on improving standards and raising expectations.
- Revising the "accountability for student learning" goal.
- Folding the "strong literacy and mathematics skills" goal into the new "rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness" goal.
- Streamlining the measures to assess the extent to which the goals are being met.
- Identifying specific strategies for improving student achievement related to each goal.

Board members discussed updates to their mission statement to better reflect the emphasis on college and career readiness in a more concise and clear way. With regard to their top priorities, Board members discussed their focus on accountability, the professionalism of the educator workforce, and continued community engagement. Board members discussed the addition of international benchmarks and global competitiveness to the goal of rigorous standards to promote college-and-career readiness. Board members expanded language relating to highly qualified and effective teachers to include the full educator work force, and discussed the Board's role in setting policy and providing leadership to strengthen educator professionalism.

In the discussion of the measures of the extent to which the goals are being met, Board members added enrollment in AP, IB and dual enrollment programs to the list of measures. A Board member also noted the need for an assessment to measure expanded opportunities to learn. Several of the assessments were noted as measuring consistently high over the years, and a discussion took place about how valuable these measures are to include in the overall assessment. A Board member also asked about an assessment in the early years to measure a child's readiness to read. An additional challenge in public education was noted to include the ability to review materials in the digital age, as textbooks and instructional materials are changing at a rapid pace.

A draft of the revised plan will be reviewed by the Board at the September 27, 2012, Board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.