

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: I

Date: January 28, 2016

Title	First Review of Nomination to Fill Vacancies on the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) and the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)		
Presenter	Mrs. Melissa Luchau, Director for Board Relations		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
x	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify: Board of Education Advisory Committees

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Article Nine, Section 2 of the Board of Education's bylaws states the following:

Section 2. Advisory Committees. Advisory committees may be created by the Board for special purposes to include, but not be limited to, federal and state-mandated committees. An advisory committee shall be composed of persons who represent the views and interests of the general public and who are known to be qualified to perform their duties. Personnel of the Department of Education may be appointed to the committee, as members or as consultants. Unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law or regulations, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. . . .

The Board of Education's bylaws also specify the membership and term of service in Article Sixteen, Section 3 and 4, as follows:

Section 3. Membership. The Board shall determine the number of members to serve on an advisory committee, and shall appoint the members of the committee, as specified in Board bylaws under Article Nine, Section 2, except as provided by state or federal law or regulation. Nominations for all vacant positions will be solicited as widely as practicable and on forms provided by the Department of Education. . . .

Section 4. Term of Service. Appointments to an advisory committee shall be for a term of three years. Members of an advisory committee may be appointed to a second consecutive three-year term, but shall not be eligible to serve for more than six consecutive years. . . . A member filling the unexpired term of a member who resigned from the committee may be appointed to another consecutive three-year term. . . .

The Board's advisory committees have three-year terms. Some of the Board's advisory committees, including the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) and the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), require specific categories of expertise or geographic representation pursuant to state or federal law or regulation. For all committees, the Board of Education seeks to have geographic representation among the appointees.

Due to two recent resignations on SSEAC, two vacancies must now be filled – one representing foster care, and one representing a state agency. The representative from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Ms. Jennifer Cooper, resigned from the state agency to accept another position, leaving a vacancy on SSEAC representing foster care. The representative from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (VDJJ), Dr. Lisa Floyd, has resigned from SSEAC, leaving a vacancy on SSEAC representing a state agency.

Due to recent resignations on ABTEL, four vacancies must now be filled – two positions for elementary classroom teachers (public schools), one secondary classroom teacher (public schools), and one classroom teacher (nonpublic schools). Preference for the public school teachers was given to teachers nominated in Regions 2 (Tidewater), 3 (Northern Neck), and 7 (Southwest). [Superintendent's Memorandum #292-15](#) dated December 4, 2015, announced the call for nominations to fill the current ABTEL vacancies. Following the close of the nomination period, the nominations were reviewed by Virginia Department of Education staff.

Summary of Important Issues:

The nominees recommended for appointment to the State Special Education Advisory Committee are:

Ms. Jackie Cowan, Foster Care Policy Specialist, Virginia Department of Social Services
Representing: Foster Care
(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017)

Ms. Jill Becker, Director of Special Education, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Representing: State Agency
(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018)

The nominees recommended for appointment to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) are:

Classroom Teacher (nonpublic)

Amy Harswick

Centra Health: Rivermont Schools

Special education teacher

(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018)

Elementary Classroom Teacher (Public Schools)

Tracey Dalton Mercier

Special Education and Gifted K-5

Bristol City Public Schools

(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016)

Elementary Classroom Teacher (Public Schools)

Charletta Williams

Fourth-Grade Teacher (English)

Norfolk City Public Schools

(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016)

Secondary Classroom Teacher (Public Schools)

Brian McGovern

Social Studies Teacher

Gloucester County Public Schools

(To fill the unexpired term of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016)

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The operating expenses and other costs associated with the meetings and functions of the Board of Education's advisory committees are provided through the Department of Education's operating funds. Federal funds are provided to support the expenses and the work of the SSEAC.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon the Board's action, all applicants will be notified.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill the vacancies on the State Special Education Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.

Rationale for Action:

Pursuant to the Board's bylaws, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The nominees recommended for appointment meet the qualifications for the positions sought, represent specific expertise valuable to the committee, and represent diverse geographical regions (when applicable).