

**Meeting Minutes  
Virginia Board of Education  
Charter School Committee**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

Mrs. Isis Castro, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Committee members Mr. Rob Krupicka and Mrs. Elizabeth Beamer attended. Also present were Board members Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Dr. Ella Ward, Dr. Billy Cannaday, and Dr. Virginia McLaughlin and Dr. Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mr. David Johnson arrived after the meeting began.

The committee first heard presentations from three individuals affiliated with existing charter schools:

- Mr. Walter Cross, Principal, York River Academy
- Ms. Sandy Richardson, Founder, Albemarle Community Public Charter School
- Ms. Pamela Boyd, Principal, Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts

After the initial presentations, the committee asked the speakers questions regarding their experiences in establishing and managing their charter schools. This discussion included such topics as:

- The importance of defining the mission of the school
- The importance of effective communication with stakeholders
- The need for increased information for the public and for those who may want to start a charter school regarding what a charter school is and how it functions
- The importance of finding people within and outside the school division who can provide advice and guidance
- Differences in how the charter schools are funded and challenges they present
- Difficulties in fundraising
- Need to streamline the charter school approval process
- Efficacy of the use of a lottery to select students
- Services for students with disabilities
- Personnel issues
- Role of the local school board and the local funding body, i.e. Board of Supervisors, City Council
- Role of the charter school board
- Scheduling flexibility, i.e. extended school hours
- School uniforms
- Differences between charter schools and Governor's schools or magnet schools

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Castro at 2:10 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Virginia Board of Education**  
**Joint Meeting of the College Partnership Laboratory School Committee and the**  
**Charter School Committee**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

Mr. David Foster, chair of the College Partnership Laboratory School Committee and Dr. Virginia McLaughlin, member of the committee, attended. Mrs. Isis Castro, chair of the Charter School Committee was present along with the following members of her committee: Mr. Rob Krupicka and Mrs. Elizabeth Beamer. Also present were Board members Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Dr. Ella Ward, Dr. Billy Cannaday, and Mr. David Johnson and Dr. Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Foster called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m., welcomed the attendees, and explained the purpose of the meeting. He then asked Mrs. Castro to make a few comments.

Mrs. Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications, presented proposed procedures for receiving, reviewing, and ruling on Virginia College Partnership Laboratory School applications and proposed Public Charter Schools review and submission procedures. Mrs. Wescott explained that while the procedures were similar, there were some differences necessitated by the legislation that established the programs. She highlighted the major differences during her presentations.

Mrs. Wescott's presentations were followed by discussion by the Board and committee members. Several changes were proposed for the proposed procedures for both college partnership laboratory schools and public charter schools. The materials presented on public charter schools can be found at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2010/11\\_nov/agenda\\_items/item\\_d.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2010/11_nov/agenda_items/item_d.pdf) and the materials presented on college partnership laboratory schools can be found at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2010/11\\_nov/agenda\\_items/item\\_e.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2010/11_nov/agenda_items/item_e.pdf).

The committee meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.