

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Committee on the Standards of Quality (SOQ)
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
1:00 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building
101. N. 14th Street, Richmond VA 23219

Welcome and Opening Comments

Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., Committee Chair, called the meeting to order with the following Board members present: Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Mr. James H. Dillard, Mrs. Joan Wodiska, Mrs. Elizabeth V. Lodol, Mr. Sal Romero, and Mr. Daniel Gecker. Dr. Stephen R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Ms. Darla Edwards and Dr. Oktay Baysal were not able to attend.

Dr. Cannaday indicated the purpose of the meeting was to understand the basis for the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and discuss the committee's work plan for the review of the standards.

Approval of Minutes of the October 21, 2015, Committee Meeting

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015, committee minutes as drafted. Mrs. Wodiska seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Dr. Cannaday opened the floor to public comment. No individuals requested to address the committee.

Overview of the Standards of Quality

Dr. Cynthia A. Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications, presented an overview and background of the Standards of Quality. Her [presentation](#) is available on the committee's webpage. A [briefing](#) on the standards was also provided to committee members, and is available on the committee's webpage.

She described the Board's constitutional authority in determining the Standards of Quality, the history of the SOQ, the Board's role with the SOQs, and the Board's review of the SOQ at least every two years. The Standards of Quality are in the *Code of Virginia*, 22.1-253.13.1 through 22.1-253.13:10. She provided a brief summary of some the components of each standard, as follows:

- Standard 1 – speaks to the instructional programs supporting the Standards of Learning
- Standard 2 – addresses staffing ratios for specific positions and class sizes
- Standard 3 – specifies the state accreditation system and refers to corrective action plans
- Standard 4 – reflects the Virginia diplomas as well as certain graduation requirements
- Standard 5 – speaks to the professional development of the Board and local school boards
- Standard 6 – speaks to the Board's comprehensive plan, and the comprehensive plans for local school boards

- Standard 7 – directs local school boards to maintain specific policies
- Standard 8 – addresses compliance with the Standards of Quality
- Standard 9 – outlines the Virginia Index of Performance Program
- Standard 10 – speaks to the establishment of the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Regarding the [Summary of the Standards of Quality briefing document](#), Mr. Dillard expressed concern that the only mention of preparing students for civic readiness was in describing Standard One of the SOQ. He also suggested the addition of language to Standard One to address the approval of instructional programs to provide students with essential skills and dispositions to be effective participants of the democratic process. Regarding Standard Three, Mr. Dillard expressed concern about the ability of alternative assessments to meet the expectations of the Standards of Learning. Mrs. Lodal expressed support for well-crafted alternative assessments.

Mr. Dillard also asked why the briefing document discusses U.S. and Virginia History, but not U.S. and Virginia Government. Dr. Cave reiterated that the Board of Education's graduation requirements extend beyond what is outlined in the *Code of Virginia* through the Standards of Quality.

Mr. Dillard expressed concern about the General Achievement Adult High School diploma requirements, in that a Board-approved career and technical education credential should be a stand-alone requirement, not lumped in with a passing score on a high school equivalency examination.

Regarding the [Summary of the Standards of Quality briefing document](#), Mrs. Lodal asked about the frequency of the incorporation of art, music, and physical education. Mrs. Lodal indicated the committee should consider this issue in its review.

Mrs. Wodiska asked if long-term substitutes are addressed in the Standards of Quality. Dr. Cave indicated that the SOQ do not speak to long-term substitutes.

Dr. Cannaday asked that as the Board reviews each standard in detail, Department staff highlight initiatives of the Department in those particular areas.

Dr. Cave indicated there is proposed legislation, [HJ 112 \(Landes\)](#), to create a two-year joint committee to study the Standards of Quality. Mrs. Atkinson asked about the timing of the Board's recommendations on the SOQ versus the joint committee's report. Dr. Staples noted that the legislation envisions a comprehensive review over two years. Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. Dillard expressed concern about the Board's role related to the SOQ being left out of the proposed legislation. Mrs. Wodiska reiterated the need for role clarity for all parties involved in public education.

Mrs. Lodal expressed concern about what is mandated by the SOQ versus what is funded.

Committee on the Standards of Quality Work Plan

Dr. Cave presented the [draft work plan](#), which is available on the committee's web page.

Mrs. Atkinson suggested that the SOQ committee's review align with the work of the accountability committee. Dr. Cannaday reiterated her suggestion.

Mr. Gecker asked about how the Board measures success and identifies end goals.

Mr. Wodiska expressed concern about how quickly the schedule moves. She expressed a desire to review the SOQ concurrently with the work of the accountability committee in revising the Standards of Accreditation. She asked that Department staff present the committee information on each standard and an understanding of why the standard exists as it does, and give committee members time to process the information before discussion and questions. She also expressed concern about public hearings in July and August.

Dr. Staples indicated that the plan was to allow the committee to digest the standards in small pieces. The public hearings were proposed for the summer to align with hearings on the Standards of Accreditation and the Board's comprehensive plan.

Ms. Lodal expressed support for the work plan, and indicated she would like public hearings to occur in June and July. Mrs. Wodiska noted she would like the public hearings to occur in September and October, so the public can react to the Board's work over the spring and summer months. She noted preliminary hearings could take place in May.

Dr. Cannaday asked Department staff to update the work plan based on the committee's feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.