

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality (SOQ)
April 27, 2016
3:45 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., Committee Chair, called the meeting to order. The following Board members were present: Ms. Diane T. Atkinson, Mr. Wesley J. Bellamy, Mr. James H. Dillard, II, Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, Ms. Elizabeth V. Lodal, Mr. Sal Romero, Jr, and Ms. Joan E. Wodiska.

Dr. Stephen R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Approval of Minutes of the March 16, 2016, Committee Meeting

Ms. Atkinson made a motion to approve the committee minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting as drafted. Mr. Bellamy seconded the motion. Ms. Wodiska requested that the draft minutes be amended to note that she observed the full meeting through online streaming. The draft minutes were then adopted unanimously, as amended.

Additional Discussion

Dr. Cannaday stated that he now would provide the committee with additional time to reflect on the presentations that were made earlier to the Committee on School and Division Accountability, prior to proceeding to the Standards of Quality staff presentation.

Board members raised the following issues regarding the Profile of a Graduate proposal:

- Concerns that the roundtable stakeholder engagement process proposed would only capture broad themes and not individual, unique comments. Board members should have a common understanding of the issues raised through the public process. It was suggested that a more formalized process be used, and the entire Board should be comfortable with the public process used.
- Acknowledgement that the Profile of a Graduate will need to simultaneously change expectations and create a model for school divisions to implement while establishing additional flexibility for different situations among school divisions.
- Consideration should be given to troubled school divisions and their challenges in implementing the high school redesign.
- Important questions leading into the May retreat are: What do we want to learn? What is the best way for the Board to learn? What should the initial focus be?
- When panels are brought before the Board, as in today's accountability committee meeting, sufficient time must be given to allow the Board to ask questions and for discussion.

Discussion of Standards of Quality, Standard Two.

Dr. Cynthia A. Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications, presented an overview of Standard Two of the Standards of Quality (SOQ). Her presentation is available on the committee's [webpage](#).

She explained that Standard Two is focused on staffing standards, and serves as the basis for state SOQ funding. Her presentation concluded with a review of the Board's past recommendations and the next steps for the Board's review of staffing ratios

During and after the presentation the Board's discussion revealed:

- Concerns that the existing SOQ-prescribed staffing ratios make sense for some, but not all schools.
- Funding for K-3 class size reduction is a categorical, or incentive program, and is not a component of the SOQ.
- Staff is requested to provide additional information about special education and career and technical education staffing.
- Staff is requested to provide legislative history on the evolution of the SOQ staffing requirements to provide context for the existing requirements.
- A temporary cap on state SOQ funding for support positions was enacted during the recession to cut costs, but has yet to be removed.
- The Board should be cognizant that any additions to the SOQ staffing requirements also may incur additional local costs.
- The Board should consider the importance of local flexibility in its high school redesign work. This can be accomplished through removing barriers or remaining silent, or non-prescriptive, on certain issues.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.