

**MINUTES**  
**Virginia Board of Education**  
**Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality (SOQ)**  
**May 24, 2016**  
**4:00 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, Dr. Oktay Baysal, Mr. Wesley J. Bellamy, Mr. James H. Dillard, II, Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, Ms. Elizabeth V. Lodal, and Ms. Joan E. Wodiska. Mr. Sal Romero, Jr. was not present.

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

**Approval of Minutes of the April 27, 2016, Committee Meeting**

Ms. Atkinson made a motion to approve the committee minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting as drafted. Ms. Lodal seconded the motion. The draft minutes were then adopted unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Mary Jo Fields with the Virginia Municipal League commented that local governments far exceed the fiscal effort required by the SOQ and that state per-pupil funding continues to lag below inflation-adjusted 2006 funding levels. She encouraged the committee to consider the following initiatives in its current review of the SOQ: (1) reaffirm the Board's prior recommendation to increase the assistant principal staffing standard; (2) eliminate Appropriation Act language that directs the Department to use zeroes in the linear weighted averages used in rebenchmarking; and (3) establish a new funding standard for instructional aides, as very few such positions are funded by the State.

There were no additional persons present to address the committee for the public comment period.

**Discussion of Standards of Quality, Standards Five, Six and Seven.**

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

She explained that Standard Five is focused on professional development requirements for individuals at all levels of the public education system.

The committee discussed the following after the presentation of Standard Five:

- Each school division self-reports its compliance with professional development through the SOQ compliance data collection.

- With respect to teacher evaluations, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will return complete authority over the teacher evaluation system to the states, providing the Board with an opportunity to implement improvements.
- School counselors have raised concerns that the role of the counselor is not well described or aligned to evaluation systems.
- The Virginia Department of Education is expanding professional development offerings through webinars and will begin offering an orientation session for new school superintendents.
- School board members should be provided professional development regarding their role and duties, relationship of the board with the superintendent, and on fiscal control, audit, and budget responsibilities.
- When a school division has a corrective action plan, school board professional development should be aligned to such plans.
- Professional development at all levels of the education system will be a critical component of the implementation of the Profile of a Graduate.
- An incentive program could be created for school boards to complete required professional development, which could also be used to gather information to identify professional development needs.
- The Board should identify a pool of principals with school turnaround experience.

Next, Dr. Cave provided a summary of Standard Six, which establishes requirements for comprehensive, unified, long-range plans to be developed by the Board of Education and school boards, and plans for individual schools.

The committee discussed the following after the presentation of Standard Six:

- Comprehensive plans should not be a simple to-do list, they must be strategic and include desired outcomes.
- Professional development with school boards and superintendents should be used to help ensure that local comprehensive plans align with the Board's comprehensive plan.
- Comprehensive plans should be aligned across all levels of the education system, and coordinate needs across all aspects of the system, including accountability, staffing, and professional development.
- The Board and Department should ensure that the statewide comprehensive plan is communicated and distributed to school boards and school divisions.
- All school board members, not just board chairs, should be educated on the components of the statewide comprehensive plan.

Next, Dr. Cave provided a summary of Standard Seven, which establishes requirements for local school divisions to establish policies for certain areas. There was no discussion following the presentation.

Dr. Cannaday stated that no presentation would be given for Standard Ten, Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, because the Board is already very familiar with that group's work.

### **Follow-up Discussion Regarding Special Education Staffing**

Mr. John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, presented information on the special education caseload standards. He explained that special education classroom size maximums are set forth in Board Regulation 8VAC20-81-40 and that these maximums are not how special education add-on funding is distributed by the state. Such funding is distributed based on a caseload chart that is included in Board Regulation 8VAC20-81-340 that considers disability categories and the amount of time the student receives special education services.

Mr. Eisenberg explained that the funding methodology was established by JLARC in the late 1980s, and does not reflect the current trend to discourage segregating children with disabilities. The Commission on Youth will be examining the methodology in a study that is to be completed by December 2016.

A summary of career and technical education staffing requirements was also distributed to the committee.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.