

DRAFT MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Standing Committee on the Standards of Quality
Wednesday, July 27, 2016
4:00 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the July 27, 2016 meeting of the Committee on the Standards of Quality: Diane Atkinson; Dr. Oktay Baysal; Wesley J. Bellamy; Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr.; James Dillard; Daniel A. Gecker; Joan Wodiska; and Sal Romero, Jr. Dr. Steven Staples, the superintendent of public instruction, was also present. Elizabeth Lodal was absent.

Dr. Cannaday, chairman of this committee, convened the meeting at 3:45pm. As part of his introductory remarks, he said today's meeting would focus on several items related to the Standards of Quality (SOQ).

Approval of the Minutes from the June 22, 2016 Committee Meeting

Ms. Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2016 committee meeting. Mr. Gecker seconded the motion, and the draft minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Rachael Deane from JustChildren spoke on the need for higher SOQ staffing ratios for a variety of instructional and support positions, including school counselors, assistant principals, and custodians.

Kathy Burcher from the Virginia Education Association spoke on the need for higher SOQ staffing ratios, and specifically noted that the SOQ sets no minimum staffing level for school psychologists, school nurses, social workers, or many other important support personnel.

Emily Griffey from Voices for Virginia's Children spoke in favor of establishing minimums, improving ratios, and eliminating the cap for those support positions best suited to handle the needs of children experiencing economic hardship and mental illness—social workers, counselors, and school psychologists.

Presentations

Dr. Cannaday made the following presentation to the Board on the SOQ:

[Standards of Quality, A Shared Responsibility](#)

Dr. Cynthia Cave, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications for the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) made the following presentation:

[Preliminary Staff Considerations for Revisions to the SOQ](#)

The Board had the following comments and questions:

- The SOQ should reflect actual staffing needs and practices rather than arbitrary ratios. Consideration should also be given to differences in needs across the Commonwealth.
- The school counselor workload has increased because they are serving more troubled populations requiring intensive services, and will increase more as the Profile of a Graduate is implemented. Discrete ratios for counselors should also be considered at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- The SOQ should consider the needs of students and local capacities rather than only the number of students.
- It was observed that the Constitution establishes that the Board is responsible for prescribing the Standards of Quality, which are then amended by the General Assembly; however, in practice, the Standards have been codified, and the Board makes periodic recommendations for changes to the General Assembly.
- Additional information on special education and English language learner staffing and support should be provided by staff.
- Attention should be given to school leadership and support, including professional development, for principals and superintendents.
- Further consideration should be given to specifying staffing standards for certain support categories.
- Staffing for Career and Technical Education positions will need to consider the need for coordinator positions for new work-based experiences, such as internships and work-based learning.
- It was suggested that School Efficiency Reviews could play a role to help assure the General Assembly that funds are being spent responsibly, especially in divisions that receive significant state assistance.
- It may be helpful for the school divisions to summarize for the Board the actions where the General Assembly has shifted fiscal responsibility from the state to localities.

- It was observed that funds shift between Standards of Quality funding and categorical funding, depending on whether the funds need to be directed at a specific need. Staff will be providing additional information on the use of categorical funds.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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