

**Virginia Board of Education
Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking
Wednesday October 17, 2018
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia**

Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the October 17, 2018, meeting of the committee on evidence-based policymaking: Ms. Kim Adkins (chair); Dr. Jamelle Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth Lodal, Ms. Anne Holton, Dr. Keisha Pexton, Dr. Francisco Durán and Mr. Daniel Gecker. Dr. James F. Lane, superintendent of public instruction, and Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations, were also present.

Ms. Adkins, chair of this committee, convened the meeting at 1 p.m. and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 19, 2018 Committee Meeting

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2018, committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins and carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Adkins opened the floor to public comment.

Ms. Donna Sayegh, constituent from Portsmouth, VA and candidate for Portsmouth City School Board, provided public comment on school equity.

Discussion of Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking Recommendation:

Ms. Adkins provided a brief overview of the committee's formation and purpose.

At the November 17, 2017, meeting of the Board of Education, President Gecker announced the creation of the Special Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking to help further the Board's focus on their recently adopted *Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023*. The purpose of the committee was to research and review evidence-based practices to develop recommendations for the Board's consideration as it relates to their comprehensive plan.

After much consideration of the Board's comprehensive plan, the committee decided to focus their efforts on educational equity with attention on two areas of educational equity: 1) teacher quality and development; and 2) students' access to high-quality teachers.

At the January 24, 2018 meeting, the committee agreed upon a definition of educational equity for which to base their work and recommendations. The committee defines educational equity as students receiving the resources they need to be successful throughout their academic careers and beyond. Equity takes into consideration the varying experiences that impact students' educational opportunities, including race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, family background and others. This definition is in contrast to education equality, which is defined as students receiving and having access to the same resources regardless of need.

Since January 2018, the committee has met regularly to review research, receive presentations and discussed on priority areas within their purview. The committee's recommendations, all grounded in their review of research, fall within three categories: (1) advocacy; (2) regulations and guidance; and (3) engagement.

Ms. Adkins read through the draft recommendations for the committee to consider.

Following Ms. Adkins review of the recommendations, the committee held a discussion on its report and recommendations to the Board. A draft of the recommendations is available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/evidence-based-policy/index.shtml.

Ms. Adkins asked the committee to consider reorganizing the recommendations into the following three categories: (1) policy development; (2) resource advocacy; and (3) administrative. The committee agreed.

The committee agreed that the Committee on the Standards of Quality should reconvene in 2019. The committee asked staff to develop a timeline for review of the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for the November meeting.

The committee agreed to ensure alignment between an equity framework, equity dashboard and the comprehensive plan. Further, the committee wants to ensure the metrics included in an equity dashboard align with the Board's thinking on equity.

The committee agreed to add "special populations" to the recommendation about differentiated teacher compensation for high-needs schools.

The committee agreed to add "classroom" to the school integration and diversification recommendation.

The committee recommended changing a recommendation to encourage the Board to revise the current *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* to look for alternatives to the Praxis assessment to encourage minority educator recruitment.

The committee agreed to change all references of "teachers" to "educators."

The committee agreed that as part of their recommendations to ask the Board to prioritize advocacy. This is an important and untapped role of the Board.

Ms. Webb noted that she would make the requested revisions to the committee's report and recommendations prior to their next meeting in November.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

The committee agreed to bring the revised draft recommendations back in November for their consideration. It is anticipated that the recommendations will be presented to the Board in November.

Ms. Adkins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins and carried unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.