

**DRAFT MINUTES
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
November 13, 2019**

The Board of Education met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, Richmond, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President
Ms. Pamela Davis-Vaught
Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Mrs. Diane Atkinson, Vice President
Dr. Francisco Durán
Dr. James F. Lane,
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session under *Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (40)*, for the purpose of discussion and consideration of records relating to denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses, and that Susan Williams, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education; as well as staff members Dr. James Lane, Patty Pitts, Nancy Walsh, Tonya Kish and Kevin Foster, whose presence will aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and was carried unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 10:05 a.m. Mrs. Atkinson made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 12:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gecker made a motion that the Board certify by roll-call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered. Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgement, has taken place. The statement of the departure would be recorded in the minutes.

Board roll call:

- Dr. Durán - yes
- Mrs. Atkinson - yes
- Mr. Gecker - yes
- Dr. Wilson - yes
- Mrs. Davis-Vaught - yes

The Board made the following motions:

Dr. Wilson made a motion to issue a license in Case #1. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis-Vaught and carried unanimously.

Dr. Durán made a motion to issue a license in Case #2. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Davis-Vaught made a motion to issue a license (reinstatement) in Case #3. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to deny a license in Case #4. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis-Vaught and carried unanimously.

Dr. Durán made a motion to revoke the license of Michael Andrew Burke. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Dr. Durán made a motion to issue a license (reinstatement) in Case #6. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Daniel Gecker
President

**DRAFT MINUTES
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
November 14, 2019**

The Board of Education met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, Richmond, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President
Ms. Kim Adkins
Dr. Francisco Durán
Dr. Keisha Pexton

Mrs. Diane Atkinson, Vice President
Ms. Pamela Davis-Vaught
Ms. Anne Holton
Dr. Jamelle Wilson
Dr. James F. Lane,
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16 - 17, 2019, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson, Dr. Durán abstained and the motion carried. Copies of the minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

Resolution of Recognition

A Resolution of Appreciation for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Public was presented to Mrs. Elizabeth V. Lodal, Virginia Board of Education Member, 2015 – 2019. Mrs. Lodal retired from the Board in June 2019.

Mr. Gecker announced that Ms. Kim Adkins has submitted her resignation to the Board of Education, effective January 1, 2020, due to her work commitments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comment speakers during the Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Final Review of Revisions to the Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide**
- B. **Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Establish dual Language Endorsements in the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel in Response to House Bill 1156 (2018) General Assembly**
- C. **Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation for the Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 (2019 General Assembly)**
- D. **Final Review of Report from the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's on Recommendations for Dual Enrollment in Response to Senate Bill 1575 (2019 General Assembly)**
- E. **Final Revise of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Funds Loan**

Dr. Durán made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented to the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pexton and carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

F. Final Review of Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendent

Mrs. Patty Pitts, assistant superintendent of teacher education and licensure, presented this item to the Board for final review.

The *Code of Virginia* requires the Board of Education to establish performance standards and evaluation criteria for teachers, principals, and superintendents. The Board is beginning a process to review and make revisions to the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents*. Prior to a broader review, revised guidelines are presented to

the Board to address only the weighting of the performance standards for the evaluation of teachers, principals, and superintendents.

Mrs. Pitts provide background information on changes to federal requirements that allow for and necessitate this change. In 2012, in response to federal reporting requirements pursuant to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) and to meet requirements of Virginia's Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 Flexibility Plan, Virginia was required to ensure that student academic progress (standard 7) accounted for 40 percent of the summative evaluation for teachers. As such, the Board's current *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers* called for the first six standards to be weighted equally at 10 percent each and the seventh standard, student academic progress, to account for 40 percent of the summative evaluation. Since the federal reporting requirement has been eliminated, these percentages are not mandated. The weighting of student academic progress at 40 percent of the summative evaluation is no longer required. The *Code of Virginia* requires that student academic progress be a "significant" component of the evaluation. The revised *Guidelines* propose that how student academic progress is met is the responsibility of local school boards provided that *Performance Standard 7: Student Academic Progress* is not the least weighted of the performance standards or less than one (10 percent); however, it may be weighted equally as one of the multiple lowest weighted standards.

The *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents* each set forth seven performance standards. Evaluations must be consistent with the following performance standards.

The guidelines recommend the following weighted standards:

- Standards 1 through 5 – weighted 1.5
- Standard 6 (professionalism) – weighted 1
- Standard 7 (student academic progress) – weighted 1.5

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents*.

Ms. Holton asked for clarification on where the majority of changes were being made in the guidelines. Mrs. Pitts responded that all of the revisions are highlighted in yellow font. Revisions were only made to the weighting of the standards.

Ms. Holton asked if there could be a note added to the document that changes were only made to the weighting of the performance standards, not a comprehensive revision to the entire document.

Mrs. Pitts stated that a note could be added to that effect.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to approve the revisions outlining the weighted standards to the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers, Principals and Superintendents*. The motion was seconded by Dr. Durán and carried unanimously.

G. Final Review of the Board of Education's 2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia

Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations, presented the *2019 Annual Report on the Conditions and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia* for final review.

The Annual Report is required by Article VIII, Section 5 of the *Constitution of Virginia* and §22.1-18 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The Annual Report outlines the condition of public education including:

- Student demographics and enrollment trends;
- Accreditation status;
- Performance on school quality indicators;
- Graduation and dropout rates;
- Suspension rates among demographic groups; and
- Education funding as compared to other states.

Since first review, the following updates were made based on Board feedback:

- an executive summary was added on pages 4 and 5;
- additional historical information about the standards of quality and actions of the general assembly was added on pages 8 and 9;
- data of unfilled positions has been expanded to show a 10-year trend line on page 13;
- a section was added referencing major Board accomplishments and actions beyond the SOQ revisions on pages 16 and 17; and
- more context was added to the data on suspension and expulsions on page 22.

During the Board's work session on Wednesday November 13, 2019, Ms. Holton made a comment to feature the most recent reading results prominently in the report. Ms. Webb worked with department staff and provided members a draft of proposed language for a new section on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading scores.

Additionally, Dr. Durán requested that information about SLIFE and SIFE students be added to the section on student demographics.

Following Board approval, the report will be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board of Education approve the *2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia*.

Dr. Wilson asked Ms. Webb to define SLIFE and SIFE. Ms. Webb responded that SLIFE is an acronym for students with limited interrupted formal education. SIFE is an acronym for students with interrupted/inconsistent education. At this time, data is not collected but will be in the future.

The Board thanked Ms. Webb for her hard work on completing the report.

Ms. Holton made a motion to approve the *2019 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia*. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins and approved unanimously.

Mr. Gecker noted that the Board's Annual Report and Comprehensive Plan are the Board's major policy documents and that it should be used for communicate the Board's priorities and vision for public education. He thanked Ms. Webb for work in drafting these document that lay out what the Board believes.

H. First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) or Fewer Students

Dr. Michelle Wallace, school quality coordinator, office of school quality, presented this item to the Board for first review.

The following school divisions request approval of an alternative accreditation plan for the high schools indicated below to meet the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) benchmark for schools with a graduation cohort of 50 or fewer students.

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	GCI Index 2019
Albemarle County	Murray High	89.5

Name of School Division	Name of School(s) Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	GCI Index 2019
Town of Colonial Beach	Colonial Beach High	100
Craig County	Craig County High	89.3
Highland County	Highland High	100
Scott County	Twin Springs High	97.5
York County	York River Academy	92.9

Due to the small cohort size, one student can make a significant difference in the GCI. For this reason, the GCI alone is not an appropriate measure for these schools; additional criteria are needed to determine accreditation. Each school division is requesting a waiver to 8VAC 20-131-380 of the *Standards of Accreditation* so that adjustments may be made to the accreditation calculations for accountability purposes. The following are being requested by each school division for the accreditation cycles for three years beginning in 2019-2020:

1. The proposed alternative accreditation plan will be used only if the school fails to meet the GCI benchmark for full accreditation AND the cohort size for the graduating class is less than 50.
2. The maximum number of GCI bonus points allowable for alternative accreditation will be based upon the size of the On-Time Graduation Rate cohort as follows:
 - 0-14 students, no bonus points assigned: the school division will submit a written appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
 - Maximum of 5 points for cohorts of 15-20 students
 - Maximum of 4 points for cohorts of 21-40 students
 - Maximum of 3 points for cohorts of 41-50 students
3. The division will submit a written appeal of the accreditation rating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for cohort sizes of less than fifteen students or in cases where special circumstances warrant explanation and consideration in addition to the maximum point values outlined above.

Each school division has determined additional criteria and measurable thresholds for achieving bonus points based upon individual school data. Each school has submitted between three and six additional criteria, each of which is worth one bonus point if the benchmark is met. Descriptions of the additional criteria fall into the following categories:

- Advanced Diplomas earned by graduating cohort
- Advanced Placement course enrollment and/or Advanced Placement examination scores
- Completion of internships/mentorships
- Completion of service learning programs

- Career and Technical Education program completion, certification, and/or credential awards
- Dual Enrollment course enrollment
- Enrollment in higher level courses such as chemistry, calculus, and physics
- Post-High School status – postsecondary education, joining the military, full-time employment
- SOL pass rates and/or SOL pass advanced pass rates

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education accept for first review the requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) or Fewer Students.

The Board of Education received this item for first review.

I. First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans form Albemarle County Public Schools, Arlington County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools

Dr. Michelle Wallace, school quality coordinator, office of school quality, presented this item to the Board for first review.

The following school divisions seek request of renewal of the alternative accreditation plans for the following special purpose schools:

Division	School	2016-2017 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2015-2016	2017-2018 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2016-2017	2018-2019 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2017-2018
Albemarle County	Albemarle Community Public Charter School	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Accredited based on SB368
Arlington County	Arlington Community High	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation	Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application

Division	School	2016-2017 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2015-2016	2017-2018 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2016-2017	2018-2019 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2017-2018
			application	
Chesterfield County	Carver College and Career Academy	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application
Fairfax County	Bryant High School	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Adult High School	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368	Accredited based on SB368
Fairfax County	Key Center School	Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited	Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation
Fairfax County	Kilmer Center	Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited	Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation
Fairfax County	Mountain View High School	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application	Accredited based on SB368 and by meeting 2015 Standards of Accreditation

The proposed school plans and requested waivers were included in the Board item and attachments.

The requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans address specific indicators designated by the Board for accreditation purposes in the *Standards of Accreditation*. Plans must include the

following criteria:

1. Explain why the purpose and rationale of the individual accreditation plan justifies the need for an individual alternative accreditation plan.
2. Describe the characteristics of the student population.
3. Describe how the program of instruction provides all students with opportunities to study a comprehensive curriculum to ensure success in achieving the Standards of Learning.
4. Describe the strategies used to evaluate student progress—include standards-based academic achievement measures.
5. Describe how students will be taught by teachers who meet the Board of Education’s licensure requirements for instructional personnel.
6. For each of the following categories, describe measures that are objective, measurable, and directly related to the mission and purpose of the school:
 - a. Academic achievement measures for all students;
 - b. Academic achievement gap measures for prevalent student groups; and
 - c. Student engagement and outcome measures related to absenteeism for all schools and dropouts and graduation for high schools. Alternative accreditation plans for high schools that extend through 2021-2022 should also include measures related to the college and career readiness.
7. Describe how statewide assessment student achievement results of English and mathematics will be used to support instruction.
8. Describe how the plan meets the testing requirements of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.
9. Describe how the plan meets the testing requirements in federal law.
10. Describe how the plan provides convincing evidence that all pre-accreditation eligibility criteria ([8 VAC 20-131-390.A](#)) are met for standards in which waivers have not been requested.
11. Indicate the waivers requested for accrediting standards that are not being met, and the rationale for these waivers.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education accept for first review the requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Arlington County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Ms. Holton asked for clarification as to why Albemarle Community Public Charter School is requesting an alternative accreditation. She stated that in her review of the other plans, those schools were all serving a special population but that does not seem to be the case for Albemarle Community Public Charter School.

Ms. Holton requested the Superintendent of Public Instruction speak to the merits of each proposal, especially given the Board's revisions to the SOA related to student growth and progress, when this item comes back to the Board for final review in January.

Dr. Lane acknowledged Ms. Holton's request and stated that he will respond at the January Board meeting.

The Board of Education received this item for first review.

DISCUSSION ON CURRENT ISSUES- by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ms. Davis-Vaught shared that she had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Lane and Mr. Gecker at her school, Highland View Elementary in Bristol, VA. Along with the faculty and superintendent, delegates were in attendance supporting the school during the visit. Ms. Davis-Vaught also shared the other schools and divisions visited during their day trip and the incredible teaching and innovation occurring in each of the schools. In addition to Highland View Elementary, the group visited Lebanon Middle School in Russel County, Ridgeview High School in Dickenson County, Riverview Elementary/Middle School in Buchanan and held a dinner with Region 7 superintendents in Wytheville, VA.

Dr. Lane thanked Ms. Davis-Vaught for her hospitality at Highland View and for joining him and Dr. Lane on the tour. The next day, Dr. Lane and Mr. Gecker visited Eastern Elementary/Middle School in Giles County and attended the State Superintendent Leadership Council held at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Durán shared that he, Ms. Holton and Dr. Mann attended a public hearing in Falls Church regarding the proposed revisions to the *Health Education Standards of Learning*. Six speakers were present and spoke of concerns addressing vaping, challenges and inconsistencies with how physical education is taught and class sizes /teacher ratio.

Mrs. Atkinson attended a public hearing in Virginia Beach on the proposed revisions to the *Health Education Standards of Learning*. Five speakers signed up to speak and an additional five speakers decided to speak on their concerns including the limited timeframe to cover the required standards, the lack of a requirement to take P.E. in eighth grade, and large class sizes.

Ms. Adkins shared a recent article in the Martinsville Bulletin that stated that Martinsville City Schools would be one of a few divisions to employ a Shotgun Detection System, received with grant funds through VDOE. Dr. Lane explained that he could not speak specifically to the

shotgun detection system but did explain that Martinsville City Public Schools did receive grant funding through a school safety grant intended to help divisions make their schools safer.

Ms. Holton took this time to recognize and honor Ms. Davis-Vaught, who recently received the Educator of the Year award from Share Our Strength for her work on ending childhood hunger. Her school, Highland View Elementary, participates in the Breakfast After the Bell program.

Ms. Holton provided some background information in reference to the invitation to attend the Achievable Dream Event.

Mr. Gecker thanked Mrs. Davis-Vaught for opening her school to them during the visit to Southwest Virginia. He spoke about how much he enjoyed all of the visits and speaking directly with teachers and students. He noted that so many of the teachers spoke about how proud they were to teach at Highland View Elementary.

In closing the meeting, Mr. Gecker stated how proud he was of the work of the Board in 2019 – completing many projects and continuing the focus on the Board’s priorities to create the best outcome for children in the Commonwealth. He Mr. Gecker stated as the last Board meeting of 2019, being very proud of an active Board, completing many projects and continuing with the mission of the best outcome for the children of the Commonwealth. He looks forward to 2020 and beginning the tackle the third priority outlined in the Board’s comprehensive plan.

DINNER MEETING

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the Berkeley Hotel dining room with the following members present: Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. Davis-Vaught, Mr. Gecker, Dr. Duran and Dr. Wilson. The following department staff attended Dr. James Lane, superintendent of public instruction and Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations. The following topics were discussed informally:

- The Board’s 2019 Annual Report;
- The agenda for the business meeting;
- Several school visits in Region 7; and
- The Board’s recently prescribed Standards of Quality and the process moving forward.

No votes were taken, and the dinner event ended at 7:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business

meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Daniel Gecker, President

DRAFT