

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

April 27, 2017

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

Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., President  
Ms. Kim Adkins  
Mr. James Dillard  
Mrs. Elizabeth Lodal

Mr. Daniel Gecker, Vice President  
Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson  
Ms. Anne Holton  
Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Dr. Cannaday called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE***

Dr. Cannaday asked for a moment of silence.

***PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS***

Henrico High School's Navy JROTC Color Guard presented the colors.

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the presentation of colors.

***RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITIONS***

A Resolution of Recognition was presented to commemorate the week of May 7 – 13, 2017 as Teacher Appreciation Week. Jim Livingston, President of Virginia Education Association and Sarah Gross, President-Elect, Virginia PTA, accepted the recognition on behalf of all the teachers across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Dillard made a motion to adopt the Resolution to commemorate the week of May 7 – 13, 2017 as the Teacher Appreciation Week. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

### ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2017, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal. Six members were in favor of approving the minutes, and two members abstained. The motion to approve the minutes carried. Copies of the minutes had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

### ***Introduction of New Board Member***

Dr. Cannaday took this time to introduce the newest Board member, The Honorable Kim E. Adkins, Executive Director of United Way of Henry County & Martinsville, and former Mayor of the City of Martinsville.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

- Jim Batterson, Newport News, spoke on 2017 Science SOL Revisions and Engineering design.
- Adam Wallach, Stafford County Public Schools K-12 Social Studies Coordinator, affiliated with Virginia Commission on Civic Education and Virginia Consortium of Social Study Leaders, spoke on the proposed revisions of the Standards of Accreditation (SOA).
- Kandise Lucas, parent advocate and Henrico County PTA member, spoke on an incident that occurred while attending a VDOE practitioner training.
- Maya Wallach, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Stafford County Public Schools, spoke on the need for diversity training for teachers and principals in the public schools.
- Randy O'Neil, owner of Virginia is for Education, spoke on promoting K-12 health, education and safety programs in the public schools.
- Lorraine Wright, parent advocate, spoke on the need for greater accountability.
- Kim Wallach, teacher and mother of Maya Wallach, spoke on the need for greater diversity in the teacher workforce within the public school system.

### ***CONSENT AGENDA***

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

#### ***A. Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund***

With the Board's approval of the consent agenda, the Board approved the final review of the Financial Report on Literary Fund.

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**B. First Review of a Request 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, Richmond City Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools for High Schools with a Graduation Cohort of Fifty (50) or Fewer Students**

Mrs. Beverly Rabil, Director of the Office of School Improvement, presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The following school divisions request renewal 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. Below are the GCI benchmarks for these schools:

Name of School Division	Name of School Submitting Alternative Accreditation Plan	GCI Index 2016
Albemarle County	Murray High	87
Town of Colonial Beach	Colonial Beach High	95
Craig County	Craig County High	96
Highland County	Highland High	94
Richmond City	Franklin Military Academy	98
Richmond City	Open High	100
Richmond City	Richmond Community High	100
Scott County	Twin Springs High	97
York County	York River Academy	100

Mrs. Rabil explained that 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 20-131-280 (as provided in the background information) of the Standard of Accreditation (SOA) so that adjustments may be made to the accreditation calculations for accountability purposes.

The Board of Education received for first review the requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans from the following high schools with a graduation cohort of fifty or few: Albemarle County Public Schools, Town of Colonial Beach Public Schools, Craig County Public Schools, Highland County Public Schools, Richmond City Public Schools, Scott County Public Schools and York County Public Schools.

**C. First Review of Requests for Renewal of Alternative Accreditation Plans from Albemarle County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools**

Mrs. Beverly Rabil, Director of the Office of School Improvement, presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The following school divisions are seeking renewal of the alternative accreditation plan for the following special purpose schools:

Division	School	2014-2015 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2013-2014	2015-2016 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2014-2015	2016-2017 Accreditation Status Based on Assessment Data 2015-2016
Albemarle County	Albemarle Community Public Charter School	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application
Chesterfield County	Carver College and Career Academy	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*
Fairfax County	Bryant Alternative High School	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Adult High School	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*
Fairfax County	Key Center School	Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited	Fully Accredited
Fairfax County	Kilmer Center	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited
Fairfax County	Mountain View High School	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited*	Fully Accredited based on SB368 and using alternative accreditation application

\*Accreditation rating based on data submitted using a previous alternative accreditation plan.

As part of their requests for the renewal of alternative accreditation plans for these schools, the school divisions are requesting waivers of the following sections of the SOA so that adjustments may be made to accreditation calculations and to the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for accountability purposes.

Ms. Adkins asked for clarification on schools that are fully accredited based on SB368. Mrs. Rabil responded that these particular schools were previously fully accredited for three consecutive years and will be fully accredited for an additional three years based on data and annual reports of student status.

The Board of Education received for first review the requests for renewal of alternative accreditation plans Albemarle County Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools.

**D. First Review of Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) to Accredite the Teacher Education Program at Averett University through a Process Approved by the Board of Education**

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure, presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The *Implementation Manual for the Regulations Governing Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* addresses the standards that govern the review and accreditation of the professional education program; standards for biennial review and approval of education programs; indicators of achievement of each standard; and procedures for overall implementation of the regulations. Professional education programs in Virginia seeking accreditation through a

process approved by the Board of Education must follow procedures and timelines as prescribed by the Department of Education.

Each Virginia professional education program seeking accreditation through a process approved by the Board of Education will be reviewed on a seven-year review cycle. Documents such as the Institutional Report, annual data reports, On-Site Team's Report of Findings, and Institutional Response (if needed), are part of the review process.

Averett University requested accreditation through the Board of Education approved process. The on-site visit to review the program was conducted November 1-4, 2016. Mrs. Pitts highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of Averett University's program; the full report can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2017/04-apr/agenda-items/Item-d.pdf>

On March 20, 2017, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure unanimously approved the recommendation that the professional education program at Averett University be accredited through the Board of Education approved accreditation process.

Mrs. Pitts introduced Dr. Sue Davis, Division Chair of the Education Department, and Dr. Cathy Cutright, Program Director for Graduate Program at Averett University. Mrs. Pitts thanked Joan Johnson, State Representative, and members of the Review Team: Dr. Holly Gould, Dr. Larry Ferguson, Dr. Connie Ballard and Ms. Laree Hinshelwood for their part in reviewing Averett University. Mrs. Pitts also thanked Mrs. Atkinson, who was presented at ABTEL's meeting during the review of this item.

Dr. Davis reported that an ongoing process has begun with cohesiveness among the differing programs and standards addressed and will be completed by this fall. She also provided additional plans such as:

- Documenting communication
- Purchasing a computer program that will allow monitoring of student's work
- Moving assessments and evaluations to Survey Monkey
- Hiring an Educational Consultant

The Board congratulated the work of Averett University and thanked Dr. Davis for her leadership.

The Board of Education received for first review the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's recommendation that the professional education program at Averett University be accredited.

**E. First Review of Revisions to the List of 2017-2018 Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses.**

Ms. Lolita B. Hall, Director of the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information.

Technical changes, deletions and revisions were made to the list of Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses to meet requirements of graduation. These changes are to provide students who demonstrate academic excellence and/or outstanding achievement the opportunity to earn the Board of Education's Career and Technical Education Seal, Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seal, student-selected verified credit and the Standard diploma graduation requirement. Industry certifications are continuously being revised to stay current with technology, new skills and techniques in the work place.

The process for reviewing and validating industry credentials for the purpose of awarding verified credit is based on the following criteria: 1) the test must be standardized and graded independently of the school or school division in which the test is given; 2) the test must be knowledge based; 3) the test must be administered on a multistate or international basis, or administered as part of another state's accountability assessment program; and 4) to be counted in a specific academic area, the test must measure content that incorporates or exceeds the Standards of Learning content in the course for which verified credit is given. Important to this process is ensuring that the credential is relevant and recognized in the workplace.

Ms. Hall recommended five technical changes in order to align with exams or assessments currently in industry standards. Forty-seven credentials have been added to award students with exceptional performance, verified units of credit and meeting graduation requirement for a Standard Diploma. Fourteen exams are being eliminated that are no longer offered by the credentialing provider.

Dr. Wilson asked for clarification on the credentials that are being deleted and how it may affect students in certain areas in which this credentialing may be needed for the opportunity to access a particular workplace; she asked how the department can support the schools as they are trying to connect students when credentials are no longer available.

Ms. Hall stated there are 401 industry or trade association certification examinations, professional licenses and occupational competency assessments that meet the Board requirements for a Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma. She stated that often, when a credential is deleted, there are still many more choices to attain a credential and ensure flexibility for students.

Dr. Cannaday asked for data that indicates by school division or region the number and types of credentialing opportunities that are available to students.

Ms. Adkins asked if there were a process in place for removal of an industry credential or certification if it is not supporting an industry or producing results. Ms. Hall stated that her entire staff as well as experienced teachers and persons in the business industry consistently review the credentials and certifications to provide guidance to local school divisions.

Ms. Holton asked what does Virginia do to ensure our curriculum and assessments align with the needs of industry and how is the decision made to eliminate certain credentials. Ms. Hall stated that her team works closely with partners from University of Virginia Weldon Cooper and Virginia Employment Commission to constantly check projections and data from the labor market. Direct technical assistance is provided to school divisions from the CTE office and the Weldon Cooper Center.

Dr. Staples recognized the challenges of accurately forecasting the needs of the labor market, given the frequency of fluctuations. He also stated that student demand plays a role since local school divisions try to offer courses that are of interest to students. Many courses are driven by student interest instead of long-term goals.

The Board of Education received for first review the revised list of industry certification examinations, occupational competency assessments, and licenses to meet the requirements for the Board of Education's Career and Technical Education and Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seals, student-selected verified credit, and the Standard Diploma graduation requirement.

**F. First Review of Proposed Revisions to the School Bus Driver Physical Form in the Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation (Exempt Action)**

Mr. Kent C. Dickey, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Mr. Kerry L. Miller, Associate Director of Pupil Transportation Service presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The School Bus Driver Physical Form is periodically presented to the Board for revisions, with the last revisions to the form approved by the Board and published for school division use on September 12, 2012.

Mr. Miller has worked closely with school divisions and the Medical Society of Virginia, which is comprised of medical practitioners that perform school bus driver physicals, to develop the proposed revisions. Information was also received from school division pupil transportation departments. School divisions have requested that additional medical history categories be added to the physical form to provide for a more complete medical history of school bus drivers.

None of the proposed changes represent significant deviations from standard medical practice or USDOT guidance on commercial driving physical examinations and forms. Effective July 1, 2006, HB 300 amended Section 22.1-178, *Code of Virginia*, by adding physician assistant as an approved health care provider for school bus driver physical examinations. Other changes are made for consistency with requirements in the *Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation* and the *Code of Virginia* and to clarify or update certain medical terminology. The key changes proposed to the physical form include:

- Additional driver medical history categories for comprehensive disclosure of medical conditions and terminology
- Additional detail in the “Physical Qualifications for School Bus Drivers” section
- Additional detail in the “Physician’s Certificate” section
- Expanded comment area in the “Physician’s Certificate” section
- Addition of “Physician Assistant” in the “Physician’s Certificate” section (continued)

The Board of Education received for first review the proposed changes to the School Bus Driver’s Application for Physician’s Certificate form.

***REPORTS***

**G. Report from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)**

Mr. Peter Blake, Director of State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, presented the Virginia Plan for Higher Education to the Board.

Mr. Blake introduced Lee Ann Rung, Executive and Board Affairs Director for SCHEV.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview of:

- the state’s goals related to The Virginia Plan for Higher Education;
- the role of PK-12 in the plans, and efforts to engage PK-12; and
- efforts to engage PK-12 stakeholders at the state and local level to ensure alignment.

Mr. Blake discussed the many reasons why higher education is important to students. He stated that many jobs in today’s workforce require more than a high school diploma. Wage data shows that median wage earnings improve with each degree.

Some of the challenges in Virginia's higher education system are:

- Shifting demographics;
- Increasing demands for education and training;
- Resource constraints – public funds, tuition and fees;
- De-centralized and robust system.

The goals of the Plan are to:

- Provide affordable access for all students;
- Optimize student success for work and life;
- Drive change and improvement through investment and innovation;
- Advance the economic and cultural prosperity of the Commonwealth and its region; and
- Be the state with the best educated population by 2030.

The areas of focus for the Plan are:

- Pathways: Improving successful secondary to postsecondary transitions;
- Funding: Identifying stable and sustainable funding strategies;
- Efficiencies: Implementing cost-reduction strategies, such as resource sharing and restructuring;
- Quality: Ensuring and measuring excellence and relevance;
- Communications: Improving public knowledge of the value of higher education; and
- Research: Supporting research and economic development.

Ms. Adkins asked how “value” is defined in reference to the percentage of population with certificate workforce credentials. Mr. Blake stated that he will follow up with additional information to the Board.

Mrs. Lodal asked what his thoughts on providing more affordable access were. Mr. Blake stated that it will be a continued effort for SCHEV and higher education institutions to keep prices low and to look for ways to shorten the time to earn a degree. Dual enrollment in high school is also a good option to increasing affordable access.

The Board of Education thanked Mr. Blake for sharing the Virginia Plan for Higher Education. They asked that he continue the partnership between SCHEV and the Department.

### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Mr. Gecker made a motion to go into executive session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (41), for the purpose of discussion and consideration of records relating to denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses, and that Susan Williams and Mona Siddiqui, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education; as well as staff members Dr. Steven Staples, Patty Pitts, Nancy Walsh, Vijay Ramnarain and Kerry Miller, whose presence will aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was carried unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 11:33a.m.

Mr. Gecker made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 12:05pm.



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 will be recorded in the minutes.

Board roll call:

Dr. Wilson - Aye  
Mrs. Lodal –Aye  
Mr. Dillard – Aye  
Mr. Gecker - Aye  
Dr. Cannaday – Aye  
Mrs. Atkinson – Aye  
Ms. Holton – Aye  
Ms. Adkins - Aye

The Board made the following motions:

Dr. Cannaday made a motion to revoke the license of Janice Kay Anderson. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Dr. Cannaday made a motion to revoke the license of Dustin Monroe Beck. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Dr. Cannaday made a motion to issue a license renewal in Case #1. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Dr. Cannaday made a motion to issue a license renewal in Case #2. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

### ***DINNER MEETING***

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Berkley Hotel with the following members present: Ms. Adkins, Mrs. Atkinson, Dr. Cannaday, Mr. Dillard, Ms. Holton, Mr. Gecker, Mrs. Lodal and Dr. Wilson. The following department staff also attended: Dr. Steven Staples, Superintendent of Public Instructions, and Ms. Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations.

Members discussed pending Board agenda items. No votes were taken, and the dinner meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

### ***ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION***

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Dr. Cannaday adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.



---

President