

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**May 21, 2024**

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a special business meeting on May 21, 2024, at Old City Hall, 1001 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mrs. Grace Creasey, President  
Mrs. Mashea Ashton  
Mr. Andy Rotherham (remote)  
Dr. H. Alan Seibert

Mr. Bill Hansen, Vice President  
Ms. Anne Holton  
Dr. Amber Northern  
Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Creasey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Creasey approved the remote participation of Mr. Hansen and Mrs. Ashton under the Board Bylaws and § 2.2-3708.3(B)(3) of the Code of Virginia because their principal residences are more than 60 miles from the meeting location.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Creasey asked for a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Hansen motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Hansen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April meetings of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Erin McDonell-Jones spoke regarding concerns with VCLA requirements.
- Sydney Waldrop spoke regarding concerns with VCLA requirements.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Hansen made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsections:

Subsection (A)(8): Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

And that legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education and staff, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:24 a.m. Mr. Hansen made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session at 10:40 a.m.

President Creasey 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 Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia 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.

Board roll call:

Ms. Holton: Aye  
Dr. Seibert: Aye  
Mr. Hansen: Aye  
Ms. Creasey: Aye  
Ms. Ashton: Aye  
Dr. Northern: Aye  
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ***A. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University's STEM Academy at Booker T. Washington Elementary School***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on the [Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The application proposes for ODU to begin a lab school in collaboration and partnership with Suffolk County Public Schools. The proposed lab school named "ODU STEM Academy" is an innovative interdisciplinary lab school model that focuses on providing career exposure to students through real-world problem solving in collaboration with higher education professionals, pre-service college students, and industry experts. Students remain enrolled in their home school division while being provided with several options to engage in career exploration, including innovative hands-on elementary STEM curriculum. This early introduction to STEM is coupled with engaging opportunities for students, supported by a wide network of community supporters. The proposed lab school will serve 120 students from grades K-5.

Ms. Ashton made a motion to waive first review and approve the ODU Suffolk lab application for five years with annual reviews in accordance with the Board's guidelines and bylaws with total start-up and operational lab school per-pupil funding from the College Partnership Laboratory School Fund to be determined no later than June 21, 2024. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously, with Mr. Rotherham recusing himself.

***B. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from George Mason University George Mason University's Shenandoah Valley Rural Regional College Partnership Laboratory School for Data Science Computing and Applications (DCSA)***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on the [Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The application proposes for GMU to begin a lab school in collaboration and partnership with Laurel Ridge Community College and Frederick County Public Schools. The proposed lab school named "GMU DCSA" is an innovative interdisciplinary lab school model that focuses on providing career exposure to students through real-world problem solving in collaboration with higher education professionals, pre-service college students, and industry experts. Students remain enrolled in their home school division while being provided with several options to engage in career exploration, including dual enrollment opportunities at Laurel Ridge Community College. The proposed lab school will serve 50 students from grade 10, 50 students from grade 11, and 50 students from grade 12.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to waive first review and approve the GMU-Frederick lab school application for five years with annual reviews in accordance with the Board's guidelines and bylaws with total start up and operational lab school per-pupil funding from the College Partnership Laboratory School Fund to be determined no later than June 21, 2024. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously, with Ms. Holton recusing herself.

***C. Update on College Partnership Laboratory Schools Process***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on the [Board's page on the VDOE website](#). Mr. Armstrong gave an update on the Lab School Grant Fund.

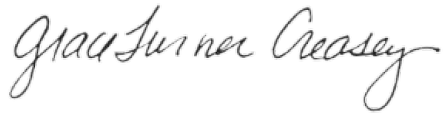
**PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS**

***D. Report from the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on the [Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Creasey adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Turner Creasey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mrs. Grace Turner Creasey, M.Ed.  
President, Virginia Board of Education