

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

August 27, 2026

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on August 27, 2026, at Lipman Auditorium at Reynolds Community College, 1651 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228, with the following members present:

Mrs. Mashea Ashton, President

Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Mr. William Robinson

Mrs. Debbie Kilgore

Ms. Beth Rhinehart

Dr. Aaliyah Maxwell

Dr. Amber Northern

Dr. Kimberly Bridges

Mrs. Ida McPherson

Mrs. Jenna Conway, Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Ashton called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Ashton asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Ashton introduced new Board member Dr. Maxwell.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Robinson motioned to elect Dr. Bridges as vice-president of the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously. Dr. Bridges did not participate in the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Wilson motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Kilgore motioned to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously. Ms. Rhinehart and Dr. Maxwell abstained from the vote.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board enjoyed a student performance from the Blacksburg High School Select Wind Ensemble.

RECOGNITION OF 2026 EMMY AWARD-WINNING EPISODE: “VIRGINIA ROOTS”

Ms. Rhinehart read the Recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, thanked the board for the approval of school construction assistance program grants and gratitude for the modified SCAP grant rubric. VASS expressed support for changing the names of SPSF performance categories to match the JLARC recommendations and the reallocation of the EL progress indicator weight proportionally across other indicators when a school does not have a sufficient number of EL students.
- Amber Rhodes, a parent from Chesterfield and former teacher, expressed concerns regarding screentime in schools.
- Mary Kate Aylward, a parent from Richmond, expressed concerns regarding screentime in schools.
- Arielle Green, a parent from Midlothian, expressed concerns regarding screentime in schools.
- Amy Stevens, a parent from York County, asked for paper and pencil SOL tests for 3rd through 5th graders, to bring back “paper” in schools, and for a formal typing curriculum.
- Angela Clinton, a parent from Henrico, expressed concerns about internet safety and screen time in schools.
- Lawanda Travis, a parent from King and Queen County, expressed concerns about King and Queen County Public Schools.
- Hannah Robbins Bruce, a parent from Henrico County, expressed concerns about screen time.
- Justine Blincoe, Policy Director of Greater Richmond Fit4Kids, expressed support for minimizing one-to-one device use in classrooms.
- Jill Collins, Assistant Principal at Martinsville High School, commented concerning Item N.
- Ross Collin, a parent from Henrico County, expressed concern regarding screen time in schools.
- Tiya Shaw, president elect of the Virginia Social Studies Leaders Consortium, commented concerning items L and N.
- Sofia Pineda, Government Relations Specialist from VSBA, commented concerning the School Support and Performance Framework.
- Jessica Romero, a parent from Midlothian, expressed concerns about screentime.
- Cameron Hardesty, a parent from Albemarle County, expressed concerns about screentime.
- Keena McAvoy, a parent from Fairfax and co-founder of DMV Unplugged, expressed concern about school issued electronic devices.
- Ryland Potter, a parent from Henrico, expressed concerns about screentime and enforcement of policies.

- Jonathan Mehring, a parent from Chesterfield, expressed concern about screentime and “ed-tech”
- Wendy Little, a parent from Chesterfield, expressed concerns about special education, FAPE, and the IDEA.
- Troy Farmer, a parent from Richmond, expressed concerns about screen time.
- Angela McDaniel, a parent from Chesterfield, expressed concerns about screen time.
- Carson Davis, a parent from Henrico, expressed concerns about educational technology in classrooms.
- Kara Gates, a parent from Henrico, expressed concerns about screen time in classrooms.
- Kimberly Fehrs, a parent from Henrico, expressed concern about screen time in classrooms.
- Laura Johnson, a parent from Henrico, expressed concern about screen time in classrooms.
- Daniel Klau, a parent from Richmond, expressed concerns about infrastructure in Richmond City Public Schools and screen time in classrooms.
- Gracie Herbert, a parent from Henrico, expressed concern about screen time in classrooms.
- Brian Edgar, a parent from Chesterfield, asked the Board to develop a statewide model policy for intentional technology use with meaningful appropriate limits on classroom screen time.
- Todd Truitt, a parent from Arlington, spoke concerning the School Performance and Support Framework Update.
- Julie Collier, a parent from Henrico, expressed concerns about screen time in classrooms.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Final Review to Certify a List of Qualified Persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools***
- B. Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund and Updates to the First Priority Waiting List***
- C. Final Review of Periodic Reviews of Regulations Schedule***
- D. Final Review of ABTEL’s Recommendation to Add the Praxis Assessments for Russian, Chinese (Mandarin), and Latin; Elementary Subtest Assessments in Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science; New Assessment for Geometry***

The material for these items can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

Mrs. Kilgore made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- E. Final Review of School Performance and Support Framework 2026-2027 Update***

Anne Hyslop, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment, Performance and School Improvement,

presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Ms. Rhinehart made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously. Mrs. McPherson asked for the record to reflect that the actions taken by the Board were for a one-year period.

F. Final Review of Final Stage Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers (8VAC20-781)

Erin Carroll, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and Education, and Jessica Silva, Associate Director, Office of Child Care Health and Safety, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

G. Final Review of Updates to the Guidelines for Academic and Career Plans

Dewayne McClary, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Technology and Dr. Michelle Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

H. Final Review of the 2023-2025 Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs as Required by the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia

Johnelle M. Torbert, Director, Office of Teacher Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson acknowledged that she is employed by the University of Richmond and therefore she does have a personal interest in this item. She noted that the University of Richmond is one of many institutions of higher education addressed in this item. She affirmed that she is able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest. Dr. Bridges acknowledged that she is employed by Virginia Commonwealth University and therefore she does have a personal interest in this item. She noted that Virginia Commonwealth University is one of many institutions of higher education addressed in this item. She affirmed that she is able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

Dr. Northern made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

I. First and Final Review of Recommendations Regarding Literary Fund Loan Applications Approval for Release of Loan Funds

Christina P. Berta, Chief Operations Officer, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

J. Final Review and Approval of Recommended Grant Awards for School Project Applications Submitted to the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) FY 2026

Christina P. Berta, Chief Operations Officer, and Vijay Ramnarain, Director, Office of Support Services, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Bridges made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

K. First and Final Review of Exempt Actions to Implement HB332, HB647, HB1165, HB182, HB258, and the OSERS action

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

L. First and Final Review of Revisions to the Board of Education Approved Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools

Dr. Michelle Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson made a motion to waive first review and approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

M. First and Final Review of ABTEL's approval of a motion to replace the Middle School: Social Studies (5089) assessment with Praxis 5589 Middle School Social Studies

Bryan Jackson, Director, Office of Licensure, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Robinson made a motion to waive first review and the motion was carried unanimously.

N. First Review of Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessment

Anne Hyslop, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment, Performance, and School Improvement and Jessica Proffitt, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional and Educator Excellence presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board accepted this item for first review.

O. First Review of Regulatory Action Resulting from Periodic Review of Regulations (8VAC20-740)

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board accepted this item for first review.

P. First Review of Board of Education Policy on All-Virtual Public Meetings of Committees Established by Law

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board accepted this item for first review.

Q. First Review of Plan to Re-Establish Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy

Dr. Samantha Hollins, Deputy Superintendent, Department of Special Education and Specialized Populations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board accepted this item for first review.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Superintendent Conway welcomed Dr. Maxwell and expressed appreciation for the Board's hard-work and excitement for the start of a new school year.

Mrs. McPherson expressed appreciation for a productive meeting as well as gratitude for the work of Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library.

President Ashton wished teachers and students luck on a new school year.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ashton adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Mrs. Mashea Ashton

President, Virginia Board of Education