

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

September 24, 2026

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on September 24, 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 9:00 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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Kilgore motioned to approve the August 2026 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board enjoyed a student performance from the Bethel High School Stick and Groove Drumline.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, expressed appreciation for beginning the NOIRA process to address JLARC recommendations concerning the school performance and support framework. Brabrand also expressed appreciation for the biennial CTE course report and a desire to expand access to CTE courses.
- Dr. Amy Blake Lewis, Superintendent of Henry County Public Schools, spoke concerning Henry County Public Schools and funding issues.
- Lawanda Travis, a resident of King and Queen County, expressed concerns regarding King

and Queen County Public Schools and financial accountability of the county.

- Sofia Pineda, Government Relations Specialist for the VSBA, expressed appreciation for the expanded use of local alternative assessments and a request for guidance and resources for the implementation of these assessments. VSBA further requested continued engagement with local school boards as the NOIRA concerning the school performance and support framework is implemented.
- Dan Zaccharias, Director of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, expressed concern regarding contradictory models being applied to religious schools. Mr. Zaccharias also expressed gratitude for improvements in how licensure inspectors have been inspecting religiously exempt child care centers.
- Wendy Litte, a parent from Chesterfield County, stated that she is awaiting a response for the point of clarification she raised at the August meeting. She expressed further concern about non-compliance with federal law in Chesterfield County Public Schools and oversight responsibility of the Board. She stated that the topic of her comment is the OSEP OSERS federal compliance corrective action and grant fraud. She stated that the Board has failed in its duties and is responsible.
- Jack George, a student, commented concerning student well-being. Including student to counselor ratios, safety procedures, and concerns with school infrastructure which impact a student's ability to learn. Mr. George asked that students are included in conversations which impact them.
- Neeley Minton, president of the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, commented concerning Item E on the September 24 agenda. VSSLC supports strong accountability concerning local alternative assessments. VSSLC appreciates the inclusion of Virginia Studies and Civics in the balanced assessment model. VSSLC expressed concern about implementation timing.
- Yanice Rookwood Jackson, a parent from Colonial Heights, spoke concerning IDEA non-compliance and the Board's responsibility for oversight if corrective action are not implemented. She also spoke concerning VDOE's due process complaint procedures and the use of federal money by school divisions which is allocated for special education.
- Liz Nigro, Senior Policy Analyst with the Virginia Education Association, spoke concerning the Virginia Literacy Act Item on the September 24 agenda. VEA expressed concern that the curriculum is too scripted and will limit teacher flexibility as well as concern that students with disabilities will have difficulties accessing the curriculum during tier 1 instruction.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Final Review to Certify a List of Qualified Persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools***
- B. Final Review of the Board of Education Policy on All-Virtual Public Meetings of Committees Established by Law***

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

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

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- C. Final Review of the Changes Resulting from the Periodic Review of Chapter 740 Regulations Governing Nutritional Standards for Competitive Foods Available for Sale in Public Schools***

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.

- D. Final Review of Plan to Re-Establish Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy***

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

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

- E. Final Review of Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments***

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](#).

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

- F. First and Final Review of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to the Virginia Standards of Accreditation (8VAC20-132) to Enable Consideration of JLARC Recommendations on the School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF)***

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.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

The Board received written reports Item G: Written Report on the Biennial Review of CTE Courses (SB592) and Item H: Written Report on the High School Certified Nurse Aid Training and Certification Program (HB413). The material for the written reports can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

ADJOURNMENT

President Ashton adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Mrs. Mashea Ashton

President, Virginia Board of Education

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