

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

December 11, 2025

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on December 11, 2025, at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mrs. Grace Turner Creasey, President

Dr. Amber Northern

Mr. Brandon Monk

Mr. Antoine Green

Mr. Bill Hansen (Remote)

Mrs. Mashea Ashton (Remote)

Dr. Beth Ackerman

Mrs. Ida McPherson

Mrs. Debbie Kilgore

Ms. Emily Anne Gullickson, 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 Mrs. Ashton and Mr. Hansen under the Board Bylaws and § 2.2-3708.3(B) of the Code of Virginia because their principal residences are more than sixty 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. Green motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Kilgore motioned to approve the November 2025 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board heard a student performance from the Richmond Public Schools Harp Program.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION PROCLAMATION

Dr. Ackerman read the Computer Science Education Proclamation

RECOGNITION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Kilgore read the Recognition of Computer Science Teacher of the Year

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Yuko Stack spoke concerning autism awareness and school environments.
- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of VASS, spoke concerning the SOL proficiency implementation plan
- Jeff Girvan, a school administrator, spoke concerning social studies accountability changes to ESSA.
- LaWanda M. Travis, a citizen, expressed concerns regarding King and Queen County Public Schools.
- Kristen Herring, a parent of two public school students, expressed concerns regarding the SOL tests.
- Eric Duchaj, K-12 social studies coordinator for Falls Church Public Schools and Legislative Liaison for the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, spoke concerning social studies assessment and accountability.
- Sam Futrell, President of the Virginia Council for the Social Studies, spoke concerning social studies accountability and changes to ESSA.
- Danyael Graham, President of the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, expressed concerns about social studies assessment and accountability.
- Dan Zacharias, Director of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, spoke concerning Agenda Item I-Removal of 8VAC20-131 Guidance Document and the transfer of credits from non-accredited to accredited schools
- Katie Hellebush, Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, spoke concerning agricultural coursework and certifications and her organization's desire to convene a stakeholder group before eliminating certain coursework and certifications.
- Harris Wheeler, a horticulturist and educator, spoke concerning the need to expose students to different areas and how it encourages academic growth.
- Jessica Chun, Middle School Social Studies Specialist in Fairfax, expressed concerns regarding World Geography being solely offered in grade 8 and the impact it would have on course sequencing.
- Jennifer Brown, Educational Specialist for Elementary Social Studies in Fairfax, spoke concerning social studies accountability and changes to ESSA and the need to honor permissive local alternative assessments.
- Dr. Jai Girard, XXXX, spoke concerning the servsafe food protection manager credential
- Damon Graham, a student, spoke concerning Item J: First Review of Amendment IX of Virginia's Consolidated State Plan.
- Mark McAuliffe, of Cross Creek Nursery and Landscape, spoke concerning landscape certifications and opportunities they create.
- Neeley Minton, K-12 Social Studies Coordinator for Albemarle County Public Schools, spoke concerning social studies accountability and changes to ESSA and the need to honor permissive local alternative assessments.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Final Review to Certify a List of Qualified Persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools

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

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

ACTION DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Final Review of the Proficiency Implementation Plan

Tiara Booker-Dwyer, Deputy Superintendent of Student Outcomes and School Quality, presented this item to the Board. Material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the item as presented with language added to reflect the add-on for existing 9-10 grade students for reading end of course at 400 to finish the three-part course sequence. Students entering grade 9 in fall 2026 will be assessed under the new reading cut scores. The motion also affirmed credit accommodations and special permission credit accommodations as voted on at the November 2025 meeting are maintained. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

C. Final Review of the Draft 2025 Expanded High School Science Standards of Learning

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](#).

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

D. Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Contract Modifications

Item D was struck from the agenda.

E. Final Review of NOIRA to Add an Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement in 8VAC20-23

Rob Gilstrap Assistant Superintendent for Educator Preparation, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

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

F. Final Review of Recommendation to Reestablish the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

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

Mrs. Kilgore made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board and to appoint Mr.

Monk and Mrs. Kilgore as co-chairs. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

President Creasey appointed Mrs. Kilgore and Mr. Monk to serve as co-chairs of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

G. Final Review of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Industry Recognized Credentials List to the Board of Education

Dewayne McClary, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Opportunities, 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 elected to hear the item on final review at its next scheduled meeting.

H. First and Final Review of School Construction Assistance Grant Awards

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](#).

Mr. Monk 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 Removal Outdated Guidance Document on 8VAC20-131

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 elected to hear the item at its next scheduled meeting.

J. First Review of Amendment IX of Virginia's Consolidated State Plan

Mark Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment, Accountability, and Best Practices 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 discussed this item.

K. First Review of the Virginia Board of Education Guidelines for Policies on Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Response in Schools

Dr. Samantha Hollins, Deputy Superintendent of the 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](#).

Mr. Green made a motion to approve the item on first and final review. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

L. First Review of Guidelines for Selecting Parent Materials Related to Student Safety Concerns

Dr. Samantha Hollins, Deputy Superintendent of the 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.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

The Board received a written report for *M. Annual Report from the Virginia Advisory Committee on Advanced Learning* and heard presentations *N. Updates to Memorandum of Understanding* and *O. Progress Update: Perkins Plan* which were originally scheduled for the December 10, 2025, Work Session.

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

CLOSED SESSION FOR LEGAL ISSUES

Dr. Northern made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 8: Consultation with legal counsel employed by 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, as well staff members, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 3:02 p.m.

Dr. Northern 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:

- Dr. Northern – aye
- Dr. Ackerman – aye
- Mrs. McPherson – aye
- Mr. Green – aye
- Mr. Monk – aye
- Mrs. Kilgore – aye
- Mrs. Creasey – aye

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mr. Green wished the Board and Public a happy holiday season.

Superintendent Gullickson highlighted the early childhood team and the successful launch of the new attendance tracking system. She mentioned the deep dive on the school performance and support framework which occurred at the December , 2025 work session and thanked those involved for their hard work. She highlighted U.S Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Assistant Secretary for Office for Civil Rights and Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Kim Ritchie and their visit to Winding Creek Elementary in Stafford to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IDEA and the success of that school.

Next, Superintendent Gullickson highlighted the success of Virginia Students on the SAT as compared to their peers in other states. Lastly, she highlighted a memo promulgated by the Department of Education which covers successes around teacher vacancy.

President Creasey wished the Board and the public a happy holiday, merry Christmas, and happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Creasey adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mashea M. Ashton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mrs. Mashea Ashton
President, Virginia Board of Education