

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

January 8, 2026

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on January 8, 2026, at the Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Bill Hansen, Vice President

Mrs. Mashea Ashton (Remote)

Dr. Amber Northern

Dr. Beth Ackerman

Mr. Brandon Monk

Mrs. Ida McPherson

Mr. Antoine Green

Mr. Marc Carraway

Mrs. Debbie Kilgore (Remote)

Ms. Emily Anne Gullickson, Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Vice President Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. Vice President Hansen approved the remote participation of Mrs. Ashton and Mrs. Kilgore 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

Vice President Hansen asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Mr. Hansen made a motion to elect Mrs. Ashton as President. Mrs. Ashton accepted the nomination. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously, with Dr. Ackerman abstaining from the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Monk motioned to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board enjoyed a student performance from New Kent High School Theatre Program.

2026 RECOGNIZING INSPIRING SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Green read the Recognition for Inspiring School Employees

PROCLAMATION ON NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Dr. Ackerman read the Proclamation on National Blue Ribbon Schools

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of VASS, spoke concerning the performance and support framework
- Neeley Minton, K-12 Social Studies Coordinator for Albemarle County Public Schools, spoke concerning social studies accountability and changes to ESSA.
- George D. Bishop, DTE, spoke concerning the U.S. Entrepreneurship Certification Examination.
- Beau Dickenson, an Administrator, spoke concerning the ESSA amendment.
- Danyael Graham, President of the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, spoke concerning First Review of an Amendment to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan
- Todd Truitt, a Parent of Public School Children from Arlington, Virginia, spoke in support of changes to social studies accountability and Virginia's ESSA plan.

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](#).

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

PRESENTATIONS

The Board heard the following presentations:

- ***B. Virginia Department of Education Organization Structure Update;***
- ***C. Executive Order 19 Regulatory Reduction;***
- ***D. Small Learning Communities;***
- ***E. Student Enrollment Best Practices Toolkit;***
- ***F. College Partnership Lab Schools Update;*** and
- ***G. School and Student Supports***

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

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

H. Final Review of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Industry Recognized Credentials List to the Board of Education Including Publicized Criteria.

Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, 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, and delegate the authority to make amendments to the Career and Technical Education Committee.

I. Final 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.](#)

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

J. First and Final Review of Board of Education Annual Report on the Conditions and Needs of Public Schools in the Commonwealth

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.](#)

Mr. Monk 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 Revisions and Reallocation of SCAP FY25 Unused Funds

Christine 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.

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

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.](#)

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

M. First and Final Review of Final Stage of Repeal of Background Checks for Child Day Programs and Family Day Systems (8VAC20-770)

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

N. First and Final Review of Fast-Track Regulatory Action to Implement Provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) for the Reading Specialist Endorsement.

Rob Gilstrap, Assistant of 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.](#)

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

O. First Review Proposed Amendments to the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan: 2024-2029

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 and Mr. Green made a motion to delegate to the Board President and Superintendent the ability to make final edits consistent with input gathered through the Board's prior conversations, public comment, and listening sessions.

P. First Review of Revised Board-Approved Textbook and High-Quality Instructional Materials Process

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](#). The Board accepted this item for first review.

Q. First Review of Virginia Accreditation Appeals

Tiara Booker-Dwyer, Deputy Superintendent of Student Outcomes and School Quality, presented this item to the Board.

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

R. First Review of an Amendment to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan

Mark Jennings, Assistant of 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 accepted this item for first review.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

The Board received the following written reports:

- ***S. First Review of Accreditation Audit;***
- ***T. 2025 Virginia School Survey Data;***
- ***U. Teacher Licensure Snapshot and Next Steps;***
- ***V. Chronic Absenteeism Tool: Student Attendance Data Dashboard;*** and
- ***W. History Instructional Guides Update.***

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

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mr. Monk provided an update on a conference he attended and thanked superintendents and chief financial officers for their work.

Vice President Hansen again thanked Mr. Carraway for joining the Board and congratulated President Ashton.

Superintendent Gullickson again welcomed Mr. Carraway and expressed her gratitude for the hard work Department staff undertook for the Board's Annual Report.

Dr. Northern expressed her appreciation for department staff and thanked them for their leadership.

Mrs. Kilgore echoed her appreciation for the staff at the department and Superintendent Gullickson.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hansen adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mashea M. Ashton".

Mrs. Mashea Ashton

President, Virginia Board of Education