

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 23, 2026

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on April 23, 2026, at the Library of Virginia, E Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mrs. Mashea Ashton, President

Dr. Amber Northern

Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Dr. Kimberly Bridges

Mr. William Robinson

Ms. Beth Rhinehart

Mrs. Debbie Kilgore

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.

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Ashton introduced Dr. Jamelle Wilson and Ms. Beth Rhinehart as new board members.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously with Ms. Rhinehart, Mrs. McPherson, and Dr. Wilson abstaining from the vote.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board enjoyed a student performance from the Prince Edward High School Concert Band.

RECOGNITION OF 2026 PRINCIPALS OF DISTINCTION

Ms. Rhinehart read the Recognition of 2026 Principals of Distinction.

2026 VIRGINIA DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Robinson read the Recognition for the 2026 Virginia Dual Language Immersion Teacher of

the Year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, expressed appreciation for the return to hearing critical items on first and final review and offered comments concerning data reporting, the school performance and support framework, and alternative assessments.
- Neeley Minton, President of the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, expressed appreciation for recent engagement with the field and for not including social studies in the proposed ESSA amendment and expressed further support for social studies curriculum which utilizes applied learning.
- Tiya Shaw, President-Elect of the Virginia Social Studies Leader Consortium, expressed appreciation for the recent engagement with the field and for not including social studies in the proposed ESSA amendment as well as highlighted the VSLC's work and desire for continued partnership with the Board.
- Wendy Little, a parent from Chesterfield County, expressed concern regarding special education and claims of non-compliance with the IDEA by Chesterfield County Public Schools.
- Rodney Jordan, Virginia School Boards Association, expressed desire to continue the VSBA's long standing partnership with the Board and invited the Board to appear at VSBA events.
- Dr. Kandise Lucas, a special education advocate, spoke concerning the treatment of minority children and children with disabilities in Virginia's public school and the Board's responsibilities under law.

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***

The material for these items 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.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- C. Final Review of Regulatory Action to Align with Item 130.H of Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Assembly 2022 Special Session I (Final Stage)***

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](#).

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 Regulatory Action to Amend 8VAC20-543-20 to Align with Chapter 186 of the 2025 Acts of the Assembly

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.

E. Second Review of Virginia 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 second review.

F. Final Review Guidance Document for 8VAC20-780

Jeffrey Williams, Assistant Superintendent 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](#).

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

G. First and Review Request to Withdraw Fast-Track Regulatory Actions to Amend Chapter 780, 790, 800 and 850 to Incorporate Stock Epinephrine Requirements

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.

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

H. First Review of Proposed Amendments to 8VAC20-70 Following a Periodic Review of Regulations

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.

I. First Review Proposed 2026-2027 VQB5 Guidelines

Jeffrey Williams, Assistant Superintendent 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](#). The Board accepted this item for first review.

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

Mark Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, 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.

K. First Review of Virginia School Accreditation System Report for School Year 2025-2026

Mark Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, 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.

L. First Review of Memorandums of Understanding

Quentin Ballard, Director, Office of 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](#). The Board accepted this item for first review.

M. First Review of Revisions to Guidelines for the School Construction Assistance Program for the 2024 2026 Biennium

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

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

The Board received the following written report:

N. Written Report on the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas for the 2026-2027 School Year

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

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Superintendent Conway welcomed Dr. Wilson and Ms. Rhinehart to the Board. ***Superintendent Conway*** emphasized the need to hear critical items on separate first and final reviews, and ***she also*** expressed the importance of ***the Board’s*** feedback to improve work.

President Ashton expressed appreciation for the Board and their feedback and comments.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ashton adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Mrs. Mashea Ashton

President, Virginia Board of Education