

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
June 15, 2023

The Board of Education (Board) convened on June 15, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Dan Gecker, President	Dr. Tammy Mann, Vice President
Mrs. Grace Creasey	Mr. Bill Hansen
Mr. Dale Sturdifen	Mr. Andy Rotherham
Ms. Anne Holton	Dr. Alan Seibert
Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction	

President Gecker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Creasey made a motion to adopt the April and May meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Emily Webb extended thanks to Dan Gecker, Dr. Tammy Mann and Dr. Pamela Davis-Vaught for their work on the Board and their contributions to education in Virginia.
- Scott Brabrand spoke about the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning, accreditation, and encourages the board to continue searching for alternative routes to licensure to address the teacher shortages in Virginia.
- Wendy Little expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Kandise Lucas expressed concerns regarding special education.

- Kathy Halvorsen expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Tammy Seay expressed concerns regarding special education.
- David Woodard spoke on behalf of the VSBA to encourage the Board to reach out to VSBA regarding accountability.
- Diann Huber spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Wendy Amato spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Mo Gaffney spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Amy Anderson spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Andrew Rozell spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Dalphine Joppy spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Toni Childress spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Chris Jones spoke about the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning.
- Laura Estes spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Courtney K. Baker, PhD spoke about the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning.
- Karen T. Riddick spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Emily Branch spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Amy Beaumont spoke about the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning.
- Dr. Deb Crawford spoke about the proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning.
- Janelle Spitz spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Kim Hammond spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Rich Lebrand spoke regarding concerns regarding the licensure of Mark Taylor of Spotsylvania Public Schools.
- Dawn Shelly spoke regarding concerns regarding the licensure of Mark Taylor of Spotsylvania Public Schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mrs. Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, submitted this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education certify the individuals named on the attached list for the office of division superintendents of schools.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to approve the list of qualified persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey. This motion was carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. First and Final Review of Proposed Amendment 6 to Virginia's Consolidated State Plan

Mrs. Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive first review and approve Amendment 6 to the Consolidated State Plan.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the list of qualified persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen. This motion was carried unanimously.

C. Final Review of Applications from Divisions Partnering with iteach to Provide an Alternate Route to Licensure and Endorsements Pursuant to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly

Mr. 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](#).

Pursuant to the *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly (Guidelines)*, the following school divisions have applied for an alternate route to licensure through a partnership with iteachUS:

- Amherst County Public Schools
- Arlington County Public Schools
- Bedford County Public Schools
- Botetourt County Public Schools
- Charles City Public Schools
- Chesapeake City Public Schools
- Chesterfield County Public Schools
- Dinwiddie County Public Schools
- Essex County Public Schools
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Greensville County Public Schools
- Hampton City Public Schools
- Henry County Public Schools
- Hopewell City Public Schools
- Isle of Wight County Public Schools

- Mathews County Public Schools
- Middlesex County Public Schools
- Newport News City Public Schools
- Powhatan County Public Schools
- Prince George County Public Schools
- Roanoke County Public Schools
- Shenandoah County Public Schools
- Sussex County Public Schools
- Westmoreland County Public Schools

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board approve the applications with the following conditions:

1. That iteach maintain its accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation;
2. That the petitioning divisions comply with the provisions with the Virginia Literacy Act;
3. That the petitioning divisions, prior to the beginning of the school year, submit plans for approval by VDOE to support the alternate route with a mentorship program; and
4. That partnering divisions and iteach submit data on quality and effectiveness to the VDOE on an annual basis.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the Applications from Divisions Partnering with iteach to Provide an Alternate Route to Licensure and Endorsements Pursuant to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly with the conditions recommended by the Superintendent. The Board's approval is for three years pursuant to the *Guidelines*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen. This motion was carried unanimously.

D. Final Review of Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide

Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and Education, and Dr. Emily Solari, Edmund H. Henderson Professor of Education at the University of Virginia School of 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 current recommendations for the Core Instructional Program Guide include eight core curriculum resources that cover either K-3 or K-2. The Program Guide enables school divisions to begin the following:

- Select and implement evidence-based literacy instruction during core instructional programing as defined in the VLA;

- Understand the strengths and challenges of each approved core curriculum to guide purchasing decision and implementation, especially when considering supplemental resources;
- Select the option that best meets the needs of their students, educators and communities; and
- Ensure compliance with the VLA by the 2024-2025 school year as required by the law.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the recommendation for Core Instructional Programs to comply with the VLA.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to approve the Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. This motion was carried unanimously with Mr. Rotherham abstaining.

E. Final Review of Guidelines for 2023-2024 of the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5)

Mrs. Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and 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 VDOE received a full endorsement from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee for the proposed 2023-2024 VQB5 Guidelines. The 22 member committee convened for an in-depth discussion and review of the proposal on March 16, 2023.

Since the BOE's first review in April, VDOE has engaged hundreds of stakeholders to share information and gather feedback from the field about the 2023-2024 Proposed Guidelines including conducting several webinars, presentations, and updating the Early Childhood Advisory Committee on April 27. In response to stakeholder feedback, the VDOE has added two sections to the guidelines:

- Section 3.4 - Explanation of the steps VDOE will take in the case that a site is known to be accepting public funds, but has not completed requirement to register by October 1.
- Section 7.4 - Details added to the list of VDOE-funded Improvement Partners to provide clarifications related to access and cost to early childhood programs in Virginia.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board of Education approve upon final review the *2023-2024 Guidelines for the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5)*.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the Guidelines for 2023-2024 of the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5). The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen. This motion was carried unanimously.

F. First and Final Review of Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to the Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers (8VAC20-780)

Mrs. Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

This NOIRA will enable a comprehensive review and replacement of the regulation to make it consistent with federal laws and the Code of Virginia, and to make any other changes the agency deems necessary after comments and review, and to pursue a full endorsement of the final draft of the revised Standards from the ECAC. The VDOE will provide all stakeholders, including all licensed child day centers, with an additional opportunity to provide public comment on this proposed regulatory action and will engage constituent groups and stakeholders throughout the development of the regulation.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the NOIRA for *Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers* (8VAC20-780).

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to waive first review and approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to the Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers (8VAC20-780). The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. This motion was carried unanimously.

G. First and Final Review of Proposed Changes to Certain Testing Requirements for Writing

Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment Accountability & ESEA Programs, and Dr. Sarah Susbury, Director of Student Assessment, 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 was asked to eliminate the current grade 8 Writing SOL test beginning in spring 2024. With the concurrent implementation of the new integrated reading and writing items as part of the grade 8 Reading SOL test, a measure of student writing will continue to be available. However, the focus will be on students writing about what they have read rather than on completing items that require them to revise or edit the writing of others or to respond to prompts that are not connected to reading. It is hoped that the elimination of the grade 8 Writing SOL test will encourage a focus on students routinely writing about what they have read.

The Board was also asked to adopt the proposed *Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2023-2024 and Beyond (Guidelines)* provided in Attachment A. These new guidelines replace the *Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2021–2022 and Beyond*. The new guidelines recommend that school divisions use the integrated reading and writing assessment items administered as part of the Grade 5 Reading SOL test to meet the assessment requirements

for Grade 5 Writing, as described in the Standard 3 of the SOQ (quoted above). School divisions that follow the recommendation to use the integrated reading and writing assessment items to meet the Grade 5 Writing requirements will not be required to develop and monitor a Balanced Assessment Plan for Grade 5 Writing. School divisions choose not to follow this recommendation will choose to administer local alternative assessments for Grade 5 Writing and will continue to be required to develop and monitor Balanced Assessment Plans for Grade 5 Writing.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the following actions:

- Elimination of the Grade 8 Writing SOL test in spring 2024, to coincide with implementation of the Grade 8 Integrated Reading and Writing test component as a required part of the Grade 8 Reading SOL test; and
- Adoption of the proposed *Guidelines* to recommend that the Grade 5 Integrated Reading and Writing test component serve as a measure of student writing and to allow school divisions to provide an additional local Grade 5 Writing alternative assessment.

Mr. Rotherham spoke about the concern of teachers that this measure will deemphasize writing. Dr. Shelley Loving Ryder answered this concern by stating that this emphasizes writing in that it requires students to write about what they have read and reinforces the idea of writing across the curriculum. Dr. Coons noted that this also speaks to best practices in writing instruction.

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to waive first review and accept the Proposed Changes to Certain Testing Requirements for Writing. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holton. This motion was carried unanimously.

H. First Review of the Proposed Revised 2023 Mathematics Standards of Learning

Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of the Office of STEM & Innovation, and Tina Mazzacane, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Draft 2023 Mathematics *Standards of Learning* presented to the Virginia Board of Education for first review is a comprehensive set of standards achieved through the collaboration of many stakeholders, including parents, K-12 educators, community and business members, and faculty at institutions of higher education. The set of standards being presented in draft form represent six elementary grade levels (K-5), three middle school grade levels (6-8), and ten high school courses, including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

The Mathematics *Standards of Learning* are not intended to encompass the entire curriculum for a given grade level or course. School divisions are encouraged to incorporate the standards into a broader, locally designed curriculum. Through the engagement of a broad array of stakeholders, valuable input and feedback informed a revised set of standards that represent the best in class for all students in the Commonwealth. The proposed revisions to the standards will raise academic expectations for students and schools and provide a coherent and vertically articulated set of expectations to educators and families. Instruction based on high quality standards will ensure that all students have access to educational opportunities that prepare them for success in

the workplace, communities, and our democracy. Strong academic standards ensure readiness for all learners in successful post-secondary pursuits.

Dr. Seibert requested that the Board be given the dates and locations for the public hearings that will be conducted and noted the importance of going out to the divisions further away to receive their input.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive for first review the proposed revisions to the 2016 Mathematics *Standards of Learning*.

The Board received the item for first review.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

I. Report on Schools Recognized for Exemplar Performance as Required by the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)

Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

For the 2022–2023 award year:

- 48 schools met the criteria for the Highest Achievement Award.
- 93 schools recognized for the Continuous Improvement Award.
- 7 school divisions and 1 school recognized with the Innovative Practice Award.

J. Report from the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee

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

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) of the Board of Education (Board) met on June 5, 2023. Material for the meeting, including meeting minutes, can be found on [the Standing Committee webpage](#).

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES – by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. Coons announced the retirement of Charles Pyle, Director of Communications. The Board and Dr. Coons extended their thanks and well wishes to Mr. Pyle in his retirement. The Board members thanked outgoing members of the Board, Mr. Gecker, Dr. Mann, and Dr. Davis-Vought for their service to the Board and the students of Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business meeting at 1:20 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering disciplinary cases related to teacher licensure. Dr. Mann made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 40: Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

And that legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education and staff, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Creasey and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:00 am. Dr. Mann made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 3:45 p.m.

President Gecker 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:

- **Mr. Gecker-aye**
- **Mr. Rotherham-aye**
- **Mr. Sturdifen-aye**
- **Mr. Hansen-aye**
- **Mr. Seibert-aye**
- **Mrs. Creasey-aye**
- **Ms. Holton-aye**
- **Dr. Mann-aye**

Ms. Creasey made a motion to revoke the license of Clifton Carl Williams, Jr. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to deny the license of Darrius Montreal Mumford. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried unanimously.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to revoke the license of Brendan Mitchell Henry. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mann made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case No. 04. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mann made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case No. 05. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert and carried unanimously.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case No. 06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to suspend the license of Travis Neil Coon for one year with reinstatement contingent upon submission of the following documentation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction: evidence of completion of a course in anger management/de-escalation strategies and documentation from a mental health professional regarding readiness to re-enter the classroom . The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to revoke the license of Jacob Michael Maffee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. The motion carried with Mr. Hansen abstaining.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to revoke the license of David Bryson Noyes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. The motion carried with Ms. Creasey and Mr. Hansen abstaining.

Dr. Mann made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case 10. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to continue Case 11 to July with the request to staff to obtain further necessary information. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. The motion carried with Ms. Creasey and Mr. Hansen abstaining.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to deny a license to Giovanni Garcia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey. The motion carried by majority, with Ms. Holton and Dr. Mann voting against the motion.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to revoke the license of Charles Ottie Tucker. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. The motion carried unanimously.

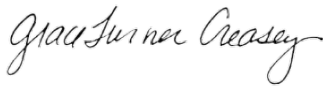
Mr. Rotherham made a motion to revoke the license of Dalton Matthew Bates. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. The motion unanimously.

WORK SESSION

The Board convened in a work session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. The agenda and meeting materials can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#). The topics discussed included applications from divisions partnering with iteach to provide an alternate route to licensure and endorsements, proposed revisions to the Mathematics Standards of Learning, and a special education workshop. No votes were taken.

DINNER MEETING

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at Native Plate restaurant with the following members present: Mr. Sturdifen, Ms. Creasey, Dr. Seibert, Ms. Holton, and Mr. Rotherham. The following department staff attended: Melissa Velasquez, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications, and Mr. Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations. No votes were taken. The dinner event ended at 8:30 p.m.



Mrs. Grace Turner Creasey, M.Ed.
President, Virginia Board of Education