

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

November 15, 2017

The Board of Education met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Richmond, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President  
Ms. Kim Adkins  
Ms. Anne Holton  
Mr. Sal Romero, Jr.

Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Vice President  
Mr. James Dillard  
Mrs. Elizabeth Lodal  
Dr. Tamara Wallace  
Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (41), for the purpose of discussion and consideration of records relating to denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses, and that Susan Williams, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education; as well as staff members Dr. Steven Staples, Patty Pitts, Nancy Walsh, and Keith King, whose presence will aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and carried unanimously by eight members. Dr. Jamelle Wilson was absent. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:14 a.m.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 11:12 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously by eight members. Dr. Jamelle Wilson was absent.

Mr. 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 this chapter 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.

Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgement, has taken place. The statement of the departure will be recorded in the minutes.

Board roll call:

Dr. Wallace - yes  
Mrs. Lodal - yes  
Mr. Dillard – yes  
Mrs. Atkinson – yes  
Mr. Gecker - yes  
Mr. Romero - yes  
Ms. Holton – yes  
Ms. Adkins - yes

The Board made the following motions:

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to defer action in Case #1. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to revoke the license of Donald Jay Simpkins. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

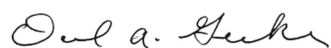
Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to revoke the license of Dennis Newell Burt. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to revoke the license of Christopher Michael Vaccaro. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to revoke the license of Andrew H. Wooddell. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.



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Daniel A. Gecker, President

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

November 16, 2017

The Board of Education met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Richmond, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President  
Ms. Kim Adkins  
Ms. Anne Holton  
Mr. Sal Romero, Jr.  
Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Vice President  
Mr. James Dillard  
Mrs. Elizabeth Lodal  
Dr. Tamara Wallace  
Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE***

Mr. Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Mrs. Lodal made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2017, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson. All members were in favor and motion was carried. Copies of the minutes had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

***RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION***

A Resolution of Recognition was presented to Commemorate November 2017, as American Indian Month. Chief Lynette Allston, Chair of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board was in attendance to accept the recognition.

Mr. Dillard moved to adopt the resolution to commemorate November 2017 as American Indian Month. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

A Resolution of Recognition for Outstanding Leadership of the Office of School Nutrition Programs and the Educational Impact of School Nutrition was presented to Dr. Sandra Curwood, Director of School Nutrition Programs, accepted the recognition on behalf of the Office of School Nutrition Programs.

Mrs. Atkinson moved to adopt the recognition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and carried unanimously.

A Resolution of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Public Education was presented to Juanita McHale upon the occasion of her retirement from the Virginia Department of Education as Senior Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Dillard move to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

A Resolution of Appreciation for Outstanding Service to Public Education was presented to Dr. Steven R. Staples upon the occasion of his retirement from the Virginia Department of Education as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Mr. Dillard moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

- Lynne M. Bland, President of the Virginia Social Studies Leaders Consortium, spoke on the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Kurt P. Thompson, Richmond Joint Engineers Council, spoke on supporting the Engineering Endorsement which is in the regulatory review process.
- Jim Batterson, spoke on the comprehensive review of licensure regulations and the regulatory review process.
- Suzanne McNiven, PTA President, Skipwith Elementary School, spoke on supporting children with challenging behaviors in early childhood settings.
- Don Cowles, spoke on the 2017 *Annual Report* and SOQ recommendations.
- Maritsa Alger, VAESP, spoke on suspension and expulsion guidelines.
- Chris Kobe spoke on the Proposed *Computer Science Standards of Learning*.

## ***CONSENT AGENDA***

### **A. Final Review of the Proposed Revised Curriculum Framework for the 2017 English Standards of Learning**

This item was before the Board for final review. First review of this item was in September 2017. The Curriculum Framework for the 2017 English Standards of Learning was reviewed and revised to align with the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate*.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the final review of the Proposed Revised Curriculum Framework for the 2017 English Standards of Learning. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins and carried unanimously.

### **B. Final Review of Proposed Computer Science Standards of Learning**

This item was before the Board for final review. First review of this item was in September 2017. Ms. Holton recommended the final review of proposed Computer Science Standards of Learning be removed from the Consent Agenda due to concerns with grade level appropriateness of the standards in the elementary and middle schools. Ms. Holton discussed her concerns in reference to holding teachers accountable to teach all students and all students are able to learn this curriculum regardless of their interest or level of math and science. Ms. Holton expressed interest in hearing from elementary and middle school principals and curriculum development specialist to inquire if these standards were age appropriate.

Dr. Wilson discussed concerns of teachers receiving proper professional development and preparation in order to teach the curriculum appropriately to an early age group.

Mrs. Atkinson expressed concerns that there was not enough information provided on the process of development of the standards. She asked for more information on the committees that established the standards.

Mr. Mark Saunders, Director of Office Technology and Virtual Learning, discussed the appropriate development of rigor in the National Computer Science Teacher Standard, which addresses grade level appropriateness. A teacher review committee was convened to review public comments and make recommendations for the development of the standards. The committee was comprised of classroom teachers, STEM Coordinator, Technology Resource teachers and superintendents.

Mr. Saunders explained that the review committee looked into the curriculum to be integrated into the core content areas such as math and science. Teachers will have the capability to improve and focus on the instruction. The process began with a steering committee reviewing the standards for each grade level. Dr. Constantino discussed in detail the step-by-step process which includes

the algorithms.

Ms. Adkins asked for explanation of how the process will move forward with professional development. Additionally, she asked if the appropriate associations and stakeholders were involved in the process and inquired if current professional development efforts would be hindered by delaying the approved of the computer science standards.

Mr. Saunders reported that in terms of professional development, funds are available from the General Assembly but specifics have not yet been determined. Appropriate associations and stakeholders were included throughout the development and review process. Additionally, he stated that professional development efforts will not be hindered in delaying the computer science standards. Dr. Constantino followed up that with the appropriation from the General Assembly, VDOE will have a distinct role in creating the kind of professional development that supports the implementation of these standards.

The CS team demonstrated a lesson using a Fisher Price Think and Learn Code-A-Pillar. This toy is designed to help preschoolers developed important skills like problem solving, planning & sequencing and critical thinking.

The Board commended the Department on the work put forth in developing the standards.

Ms. Adkins made a motion to approve the *Computer Science Standards of Learning*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and carried unanimously.

### ***ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

#### **C. Final Review of Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, Parts I-VIII (8VAC 20-131) (Final Stage)**

Dr. Cynthia Cave, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications, presented this item to the Board for final review. The presentation included the following information:

On June 22, 2017, the Board approved the draft proposed revisions to the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) regulations. Major provisions of the proposed revisions include revised graduation requirements to implement the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, and a new system for accrediting Virginia's public schools that applies multiple measures of school quality. Following the Board's approval, the proposed regulations were submitted for the proposed stage of the Administrative Process Act (APA) regulatory review, and the Governor approved the regulations for proposed stage on July 18, 2017. A public comment period was initiated when the regulations were published in the Virginia Register on August 7, 2017, which ended on October 6, 2017. The amendments were presented in October for first review of the final stage which included changes and edits.

The Board asked for additional changes and clarifications which included:

Part I: Definitions and Purpose

- Definition of the term “growth” has been added to establish that growth applies to student-level progress
- Definition of the term “recess” has been amended for clarity
- Mission of the public education system to educate students so that they will be equipped for an informed and successful private life amended to eliminate the word “private”
- Clarify that work-based learning opportunities provided may include, but not be limited to, internships, externships, credentialing, and blended learning. Eliminated reference to department guidelines related to graduation pathways. Eliminated requirement for Board approval of English courses eligible to be used toward meeting graduation requirements, which was inadvertently added at proposed stage.
- Requires students seeking an Advanced Studies diploma to complete two sequential electives, as required by the Code of Virginia.
- Clarification added to show that opportunities for internships, externships, and other work-based learning experiences are examples of such experiences, and not intended to be exclusive
- Requirement for ACP to be completed by the end of the seventh grade extended to the end of the fall semester in the eighth grade year.
- Specified that homebound instruction is to be provided under the supervision of a licensed teacher, qualified in the relevant area, and deleted incorrect references from the current SOA language

Upon the Board’s approval, these regulations will move forward for executive branch review through the APA process for the governor’s approval. Once the executive review process is completed, the regulations will become effective thirty days after being published in the Register of Regulations.

Mrs. Atkinson referenced several public comment speakers who expressed concerns and wanted assurance that social studies would be taught in the classroom consistent with Virginia’s SOL.

Mr. Dillard spoke on supporting the proposed revisions to the SOA and also his concerns about the revised graduation requirements, which he believed lowered graduation requirements by reducing the number of verified credits.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in*

*Virginia*, Parts I-VIII (Final Stage), for final review and for further action as governed by the requirements of the Administrative Process Act.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* in final form. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson. Eight members were in favor. Mr. Dillard opposed. The motion carried.

**Mr. Dillard exited the meeting to attend a previous scheduled engagement.**

#### **D. Final Review of the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023**

Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations, presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The current iteration of the Comprehensive Plan is in effect for 2012-2017. The Code requires that The Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan be reviewed and revised as needed very two years. The plan describes the Board's priorities and goals to accomplish the Board's mission, as set forth in the document. In addition to detailing the Board of Education's goals for public education in Virginia, the plan contains data on enrollment trends, assessment of the extent to which the goals are being met, several appendices on compliance with the SOQ and educational technology plan for the commonwealth.

The draft plan is a revision from the current plan and does take in consideration from the Board public sessions that were held this summer and discussions held during the Board's work sessions. The plan is direct, concise and easy to communicate to public and policy makers.

Ms. Webb reviewed from the Board's Wednesday's work session on the Comprehensive Plan. While many of the edits were technical, an additional goal was included to advocate for adequate resources for teacher salaries. Additionally, during the work session, President Gecker provided a revised draft which updated the introduction of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect a more constitutional and legal argument for equity and public education. A copy of the tracked changes was made available to Board members and available to the public online. The three priorities the Board will focus on are equity, increasing the number of candidates and capacity of the teaching profession, and ensuring successful implementation of the revised Standards of Accreditation and new graduation requirements. Appendix A was added to provide an update on the extent in which the Board's priorities and goals were met. Additionally, the remaining appendices were added and updated. Once the plan received Board approval, it will be communicated to the Governor, General Assembly and posted on the Board's webpage and shared with community organizations and shareholders.



The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the *Comprehensive Plan 2018-2023*, with the understanding that department staff make any additional technical and editorial adjustments as may be necessary.

Board members thanked Ms. Webb and Department staff for their diligent work on the Comprehensive Plan.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan 2018-2023, with minor edits by staff. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously.

### **E Final Review of the Board of Education’s 2017 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia**

Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations, presented to the Board the final review of the Board of Education’s *2017 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia*. The presentation included the following information:

The *2017 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of the Public Schools in Virginia* presents the achievement of students and schools, the priorities and goals of the Board of Education as outlined in the *Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023*, and recommendations for revising the Standards of Quality (SOQ) to support continued improvement.

The current draft of the *Annual Report* takes into consideration public comment and the discussions held during Board work sessions. The Board solicited comments and suggestions from the public during its summer public hearings held in Fairfax, Wytheville, Harrisonburg, Virginia Beach, and Mecklenburg.

As part of the Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023, the Board established the following priorities:

- To promote equitable access to high-quality, effective learning environments for all students and educators;
- To advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession and encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well-prepared and skilled teachers and school leaders; and
- To ensure successful implementation of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the accountability system for school quality as embodied in the revisions to the Standards of Accreditation.

Additionally, the Annual Report outlines the condition of public education including:

- Student demographics;
- Accreditation status;

- Achievement gaps among demographic groups;
- Graduation and dropout rates;
- Suspension rates among demographic groups; and
- Education funding as compared to other states.

Ms. Webb noted that staff had made updates to the Annual Report as requested during first review in October. The changes from first review expanded the graphs on Achievement Gaps among demographic groups, updated the suspension rates among demographic groups, added a section regarding teacher shortages, and added new information in the education funding section regarding high poverty school divisions. She also explained to Board members that all edits from the Comprehensive Plan will be carried over into the Annual Report. Upon Board's approval, the report will be submitted to General Assembly.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the *2017 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of the Public Schools in Virginia*.

Board members thanked Ms. Webb and Department staff for their hard work in pulling this information together. Ms. Lodal suggested that the SOQ recommendations be capitalized to highlight the importance of this information.

Ms. Adkins made a motion to approve the Annual Report as presented, providing flexibility to staff to make technical edits and adjustments for clarity. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

#### **F. Final Review of Proposed Board of Education Meetings Dates for 2018**

Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations, presented to the Board the final review the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for 2018. The following information was presented:

The Board's bylaws outlines that the Board shall adopt a tentative schedule for regular meetings prior to January of the applicable calendar year. This allows Board Members and the public to plan accordingly.

In recent years, the Board of Education has met monthly except for the months of August and December. Business meetings are typically held on the fourth Thursday of the month, although this is not a requirement. An exception is the November meeting which is scheduled to avoid meeting during Thanksgiving.

Over the last several months, the Board considered changing its meeting schedule from ten to eight meetings a year, including eight business meeting dates and eight standing committee meeting dates. The purpose of the reduced scheduled is to allow more time for planning,

researching, and preparing Board agenda items. With a reduced meeting schedule, the Board doesn't anticipate losing timeliness or efficiency. In the proposed schedule, the Board will not hold a meeting the months of February, May, August and December.

In September, Mrs. Atkinson requested staff to perform an analysis of Board business over the past two years. A summary of the analysis was prepared and included board items each month, board routine, major items for discussion. Additionally, Board members asked if there was a way to alter the Board's schedule to allow more time in between the October and November meetings due to Thanksgiving. After reviewing the schedule, staff proposed to move October meetings up one week to allow four weeks between October and November meeting dates. The revised dates were noted in the boilerplate.

Following the adoption of the 2018 meeting dates, the schedule will be widely disseminated to local school divisions, organizations, public and posted on the Board's website.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for 2018.

Mrs. Atkinson thanked Ms. Webb for the analysis of Board business over the last two years as it was helpful to see how time was spent on different Board items. Some Board members expressed reservation about moving to eight meetings a year. Ms. Webb responded that we will continuously evaluate the Board's agendas and reevaluate the eight meeting schedule when proposing meeting dates for 2019.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to adopt the proposed schedule for 2018 with the understanding that its effectiveness will be evaluated and revisited as appropriate when the Board sets the schedule for 2019. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

**G. First Review of the Virginia Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings**

Dr. Mark Allan, Early Childhood Education Project Manager for the Division of Instruction presented this item to the Board for first review. The presentation included the following information:

The proposed *Virginia Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings* were developed as a collaborative effort across Virginia's early childhood stakeholder groups, both public and private. A steering committee was co-led by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). The steering committee

members represented parents, teachers, principals, school division administrators, early childhood special educators, private childcare providers, Head Start personnel, higher education professionals, and health professionals.

The purpose of the proposed Guidelines is to assist program leaders, educators, and families in supporting the healthy development of young children in early care and education programs, and severely limit, after all other measures have been taken to prevent and address challenging behaviors, the suspension or expulsion of young children in early childhood setting.

The Guidelines include the following sections:

- Rationale and guiding principles;
- Definitions of suspension and expulsion;
- Best practices in promoting positive behavior;
- Suggested steps to prevent suspensions and severely limit expulsions; and
- Resources for promoting children's social-emotional development.

The Guidelines note that definitions of suspension and expulsion can vary across different early childhood programs and that each different program may have specific policies or guidance related to suspension and expulsion. However, all early childhood setting where children learn should establish policies that adhere to three guiding principles:

- Communicate clearly the expectations for children and adult behavior in early care and education settings;
- Provide support and training for the early care and education workforce on the positive strategies to manage children's behavior and the prevention of inappropriate or challenging behavior; and
- Ensure the fair and equitable application of positive behavior management and discipline practices in early care and education settings.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive for first review the proposed *Virginia Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings*.

Board Members asked for additional data on suspension and expulsion of young children in early childhood settings. Dr. Allan will provide the requested information at next Board meeting.

Mrs. Atkinson asked questions related to proposed language for home interventions. Dr. Allan clarified that the proposed language was intended for the parents to be involved in any school plans developed for the child. Ms. Adkins asked what role the development committee had with the Classrooms, not Courtrooms conference in July 2017. Dr. Allan responded that some of the committee members attended the conference.

Additionally, Ms. Adkins suggested wording edits to “Virginia’s Quality Rating and Improvement System” on page 15. Dr. Allan responded by stating that he had suggested language from the Department of Social Services to address Ms. Adkins concerns.

Mr. Romero commented on page 7 regarding family engagement. He encouraged staff to include information about schools and teachers going to the family and community, rather than families just coming to the school.

Ms. Holton asked if the committee considered stating that expulsion is not appropriate for this group of young students. Dr. Allan responded that the committee had extensive discussion about this topic. However, it was a challenge to reach consensus especially when considering the wide range of stakeholder and public and private providers.

Ms. Lodal stated that the Board should be on the record of opposing expulsion for young children. She stated that she would like to see behavior data from public and private early childhood programs in Virginia as well as compared to other states.

Mrs. Atkinson asked for clarification about which groups are the target of the guidelines.

Ms. Adkins suggested a joint meeting with the Board of Social Services to further discuss these guidelines.

## ***REPORTS***

### **H. The 2017 Recommendations of the School Readiness Committee**

Mrs. Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education, presented this report to the Board. The report included the following information:

Virginia’s School Readiness Committee (“SRC” or “the Committee”) was created by HB 46 in the 2016 legislative session. Section 2.2-208.1 establishes the School Readiness Committee and outlines the membership, role, and purpose of the Committee. The function of the SRC is to build a highly competent early childhood workforce through advancing policy and programmatic recommendations for an effective professional development and credentialing system in order to positively impact Virginia’s young children birth to age five. The SRC accomplished its mission and initial focus by considering the Commonwealth’s early childhood education systems and making relevant recommendations, given the crucial impact high-quality early childhood professionals have on children’s school readiness. Their goal is to give at-risk children in Virginia the opportunity to receive an early childhood education that sets them up for future success.

Responding to the charge, the School Readiness Committee met regularly over the last year and benefited from accessing numerous resources and expertise. Three subcommittees were created, the Standards subcommittee, Pathways subcommittee, and State Priorities subcommittee, to review barriers, successes, and develop recommendations. The barriers identified by each subcommittee are outlined below.

Standards Subcommittee:

Barrier 1:

The lack of current and consistent professional competencies drives fragmented practice depending on the setting and specific skills of the practitioner.

Additionally, existing professional standards for Virginia have not been updated to reflect most current, research-based practice. The committee is hoping to finalize the updates by next spring.

Barrier 2:

Content included in credential and degree bearing programs and in ongoing professional development and training is not aligned to a shared set of standards for the profession.

Pathways Subcommittee:

Barrier 3:

Not all early childhood education practitioners have the skills and competencies that research demonstrates improve student outcomes of young children.

Barrier 4:

Virginia's Community College System is well positioned to provide affordable, targeted, and stackable experiences for early childhood practitioners; but barriers still exist for students trying to access programs statewide and translate CDA experience into community college coursework.

Barrier 5:

There are few baccalaureate programs in Virginia that are specific to preparing teachers with the skills needed to support the development of children ages birth to 5, and few of these lead to teacher licensure.

Barrier 6:

The cost of pursuing academic credentials is prohibitively expensive and time consuming for individuals working for minimal wages. Few early childhood education practitioners have the means to pursue higher levels of education.

State Priorities Subcommittee:

Barrier 7:

There is an urgent need to increase the number of highly competent early childhood practitioners as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Barrier 8:

The issue of low compensation remains a stubborn challenge when attempting to increase the number of practitioners with competencies and skills that research demonstrates support brain development of young children.

Barrier 9:

Programs, policies, funding and regulations governing early childhood care and learning at the state level are fragmented across multiple agencies and secretariats.

Recommendations to each barrier can be found in Deputy Secretary Coy's presentation at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2017/11-nov/agenda-items/item-h.pdf>.

The Board members thanked Deputy Secretary Coy for the committee's diligent work and for sharing their report.

Mrs. Atkinson mentioned the legislation creating the School Readiness Committee where it stated that committee's recommendations must come to the Board for review and provide comment to the General Assembly. She then pointed to Barrier 1, Recommendation A, which requests the Board to take action by March 1, 2018. Mrs. Atkinson stated that the Board does not plan to meet in February 2018. Deputy Secretary Coy assured the Board that a draft version will be submitted in January 2018 for the Board's review.

Board members discussed concerns associated with Recommendation P referencing The Virginia Preschool Initiative's consideration of a policy change that VPI funds can be spent in private settings on teacher salaries, even if the individual does not have a baccalaureate degree, as is presently required. Mrs. Atkinson had concerns about moving away from a licensed teacher and a teacher who has a baccalaureate degree. Deputy Secretary Coy stated that there is mixed research and many states are grappling with this same topic.

Mrs. Lodal commented on Recommendation P, that after receiving further explanation from Deputy Secretary Coy that the classroom must still be supervised by a licensed, baccalaureate teacher, some her concerns were addressed. She stated that this approach looks like a more tiered system that is flexible to serve more students.

Mrs. Atkinson expressed concern about the term teacher versus licensed teacher. She pointed out that holding a baccalaureate credential does not necessarily mean that someone is a licensed teacher.

Mr. Gecker stated that the Board is charged with reviewing the recommendations and making comments. He asked if there was a desire to submit comments on the recommendations as a Board. Mrs. Atkinson stated that she would make a motion to submit comments on the Board's concerns with Recommendation P. There was not second to the motion. Ms. Adkins commented that she liked the tiered approach in Recommendation P. Ms. Holton responded that she can see the pros and cons of this recommendation.

A lengthy discussion continued pertaining to whether individuals without baccalaureate degrees should teach. Some Board members expressed concern about how this could potentially set-up a two-tiered system. In conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Gecker asked for a second to the motion made by Mrs. Atkinson.

Ms. Lodal commented that part of the discussion on teacher shortage must focus on licensure. In order to address the shortage, Virginia must be creative about how to license teachers. She continued that having a baccalaureate degree is essential but credentialing is also important.

Mr. Gecker noted that the licensure requirements and the set standards do relate to quality at some level and shouldn't all of Virginia's children be entitled to the same level of quality regardless of a public or private education setting.

Mr. Gecker stated that if the Board has concerns or an objection to Recommendation P, then the Board should state them in comments to the General Assembly. Ms. Holton responded that she believes it's premature to rush to judgement on this specific recommendation without further information from VDOE staff and others.

Mr. Gecker again asked for a second on the motion made by Mrs. Atkinson to express concerns about Recommendation P. No second was received. Ms. Holton made a substitute motion to commend the committee's work for the General Assembly's consideration and express the Board's appreciation to the committee for their diligent work and consideration of the issues at hand. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins. Mr. Gecker stated that he had concerns with the motion that the Board had moved from neutral to support. Ms. Holton replied that she is open to friendly amendments. Mrs. Atkinson stated that she does not support Recommendation P but does support the work of the Committee. Dr. Wilson offered a friendly amendment that the Board commends and supports the work of the Committee, and with regards to Recommendation P, the Board looks forward to the opportunity to look further at the potential impact Recommendation P would have in the future. The amended motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins. Six members were in favor. Mrs. Lodal abstained. Mr. Dillard was absent. The motion carried.



Mr. Gecker thanked the Deputy Secretary for her presentation.

### **I. School Nutrition Programs: State of the Plate**

Dr. Sandy Curwood, Director of School Nutrition Programs, presented this report to the Board. The report included an overview of the program which provides its program offering, services and support to school divisions. In 2017, The Office of School Nutrition Programs (SNP) was awarded a grant for Farm to School programs and Team Nutrition Training grant providing professional development to local school nutrition program staff.

State funding was provided to increase participation in school breakfast program and decrease childhood hunger. There has been a 7.6% increase of breakfast meals served within the 220 participating schools.

A Team Nutrition Training grant has been put into place to increase job training, peer-to-peer learning, strategic planning and ongoing data collection.

The Farm to School Grant identifies stakeholders, builds relationships and increases access to local healthy food.

Summer meals and Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) will transfer from the Virginia Department of Health to VDOE this year, ensuring that children will continue to have healthy meals throughout the summer when school is closed.

A detailed version of the report can be found at  
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2017/11-nov/agenda-items/item-i.pdf>

Dr. Wilson asked if there is an opportunity with school nutrition services to partner with academics to offer internship and service learning opportunities to students. Dr. Curwood responded that her office is working with Career and Technical Education to offer such opportunities.

Dr. Staples commended Dr. Curwood for the entrepreneurial spirit she has brought to VDOE and the Office of School Nutrition Programs.

The Board of Education received the report as presented and thanked Dr. Curwood and her team for their hard work.

### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (41), for the purpose of discussion and consideration of records relating to denial, suspension, or

revocation of teacher licenses, and that Susan Williams, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education; as well as staff members Dr. Steven Staples, Patty Pitts, Nancy Walsh, and Keith King, whose presence will aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously by eight members. Mr. James Dillard was absent. The Board went into Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 3:27 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously by eight members. Mr. James Dillard was absent.

Mr. 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 this chapter 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.

Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgement, has taken place. The statement of the departure will be recorded in the minutes.

Board roll call:

Dr. Wallace - yes  
Mrs. Lodal - yes  
Mrs. Atkinson – yes  
Mr. Gecker - yes  
Mr. Romero - yes  
Dr. Wilson - yes  
Ms. Holton – yes  
Ms. Adkins - yes

The Board made the following motions:

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to revoke the license of Jessica Aylis Diaz Collazo. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to not revoke the license in Case #2. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adkins and carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ON CURRENT ISSUES- by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Mr. Gecker announced the formation of a new committee to review research and evidence-based practices. Ms. Adkins will serve as the chair. Dr. Wilson, Mrs. Atkinson, and Dr. Wallace will serve as members of the committee. The purpose of the committee will be to look at evidence-based practices, specifically focusing on the priorities highlighted in the Comprehensive Plan such as equity and teacher shortages.

***WORK SESSION***

The Board met for a public work session on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, with the following members present: Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Gecker, Ms. Adkins, Mr. Dillard, Ms. Holton, Mrs. Lodal, Mr. Romero, Dr. Wallace and Dr. Wilson. The following department staff also participated: Dr. Steven Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Ms. Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations.

The purpose of the work session was to discuss the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan for 2018-2023 and 2017 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Schools in Virginia.

The Board's work session adjourned at 3 p.m.

***DINNER MEETING***

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 6 p.m., at the Berkley Hotel with the following members present: Ms. Adkins, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dillard, Mr. Gecker, Mrs. Lodal, Mr. Romero, Dr. Wallace and Dr. Wilson. The following department staff also attended: Dr. Steven Staples, Superintendent of Public Instructions, and Ms. Emily Webb, Director of Board Relations.

Members informally discussed pending Board agenda items. No votes were taken, and the dinner meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.

***ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION***

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.



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Daniel A. Gecker, President