

**DRAFT MINUTES
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
April 25, 2018**

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

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President	Mrs. Elizabeth V, Lodal
Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Vice President	Dr. Tamara K. Wallace
Mr. James H. Dillard	Dr. Jamelle Wilson
Ms. Anne B. Holton	Dr. Steven M. Constantino,
Mr. Sal Romero, Jr.	Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 12:35p.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 Constantino, 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. The Board went into Executive Session at 12:36p.m.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 1:29p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and carried unanimously by eight members.

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

- Dr. Wilson - yes
- Ms. Holton – yes

The Board made the following motions:

Mr. Dillard made a motion to suspend the license of Megan Ashley Debo until April 20, 2022, subject to the following conditions: no additional criminal convictions, successful completion of an additional alcohol treatment program, and completion of all licensure requirements. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to go into executive session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(8), for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice related to procedural matters related to licensure hearings, and that Susan Williams, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education; as well as staff members Dr. Steven Constantino, 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. The Board went into Executive Session at 1:32p.m.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to reconvene in open session at 2:09p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously by eight members.

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
- Dr. Wilson - yes
- Ms. Holton – yes

Mrs. Susan Williams, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, reviewed the Proposed Procedural Guidelines for Conducting Licensure Hearing. A copy of the proposed guidelines are available on the [Board's webpage](#).

Mr. Gecker noted that the Board would not act on the proposed guidelines at their April 26 meeting to allow time for the public to review and comment on the proposed guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Daniel A. Gecker
President

DRAFT

**DRAFT MINUTES
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
April 26, 2018**

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

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President	Dr. Tamara K. Wallace
Mrs. Diane T. Atkinson, Vice President	Dr. Jamelle Wilson
Mr. James H. Dillard	Dr. Steven M. Constantino, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ms. Anne B. Holton	
Mrs. Elizabeth V. Lodal	
Mr. Sal Romero, Jr.	

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. Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21-22, 2018, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wallace. Dr. Wilson abstained due to her absence at last Board meeting. The motion carried by six members. Mr. Romero was not presented during the approval of the Board minutes. Copies of the minutes had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

A Resolution of Recognition was presented to Afreen Gootee, Teacher with Hanover County Public Schools for receiving the Virginia Education Association's Award for Teaching Excellence and National Education Association's Horace Mann Award.

A Resolution of Recognition was presented to Ryan James, Teacher with Richmond City Public Schools for receiving the Milken Family Foundation Educator Award.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

Donna Sayegh, a city of Portsmouth, Virginia resident and candidate for Portsmouth School Board, spoke in reference to Portsmouth City Public School organizational system.

Dr. Rita Bishop, Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools, spoke on behalf of students with color vision deficiency and its negative impact on school performance.

Dr. Elizabeth Martin, parent, Roanoke City Public Schools, spoke on behalf of her child with color vision deficiency and how it impacts his school performance.

Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Board Member, The Arc of Northern Virginia, spoke on concerns with graduation requirements for students with autism.

Catherine A. Lee, Staff Attorney, Virginia Education Association, spoke on the proposed guidelines for teacher license proceedings.

Jim Livingston, Virginia Education Association, spoke on the outstanding accomplishments of the two recipients receiving the Board's resolutions of recognition for their awards for teaching excellence.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Resolution of Recognition to Commemorate the Week of May 7-11, 2018, as Teacher Appreciation Week

Mr. Gecker offered remarks to commemorate the week of May 7-11, 2018 as Teacher Appreciation Week.

B. Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund and Updated First Priority Waiting List

This item was before the Board for final review on the consent agenda.

Mr. Dillard made a motion to approve item A and item B on the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously by eight members.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. Final Review of the Board of Education's Guidelines on Exemplar School Recognition as Required by Recognition and Rewards for School and Division Accountability (8VAC20-131-410)

Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna, senior executive director for research, presented this item to the Board for final review.

The Board of Education's authority for establishing criteria to recognize schools and divisions for exemplar performance is prescribed in *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8VAC20-131).

The three categories of exemplar performance are:

- highest achievement, in which schools must meet the state benchmark for reading, math, and science based on the student pass rate (i.e., not including growth or progress) and must have no more than a five percent gap (for schools with two student groups) or a ten percent gap (for schools with three or more student groups) between the lowest performing student group and all other students in the school improvement, and innovative practice.
- continuous improvement, in which schools are demonstrating consistent, noteworthy improvement for multiple years in a combination of indicators.
- innovative practice in which the Board can recognize schools, divisions, or school boards that implement an innovative practice which demonstrates a significant impact on student success.

The Board received the proposed guidelines for first review at the March 22, 2018 Board of Education meeting. Based on feedback received during first review, the criterion for continuous improvement recognition was changed to substitute an increase in the combined rate for a decrease in the failure rate. Including the combined rate also allows schools and divisions to meet the criteria for continuous improvement through student growth or English Learner (EL) progress, consistent with the new accreditation model. Implementation of the Portrait of a Virginia Graduate and the 5 C's framework were also added as priority areas for the innovative practice awards.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board approve the proposed guidelines for the recognition of exemplar schools and divisions.

Mrs. Atkinson expressed excitement on behalf of the Board to have the opportunity to recognize the good work going on in schools across the commonwealth; especially the continuous improvement award.

For clarification, Dr. Wilson noted that schools will apply for the innovative practice award and it is important to note that school divisions should feel excited to share with us the innovative practices that they have going on in their schools for recognition for that award.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to approve the guidelines on exemplar school recognition as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously by eight members.

D. Final Review of Proposed Regulations Governing the Designation of School Divisions of Innovation (Proposed Stage)

Dr. Cynthia Cave, assistant superintendent for policy and communications, presented this item to the Board for final review.

The 2017 Virginia General Assembly approved HB 1981 (Greason), directing the Board to develop regulations for the designation of School Divisions of Innovation (SDI). To be eligible for designation, a local school board would submit a plan of innovation according to Board

criteria as presented in the proposed regulations. The legislation defined “innovation” as a new or creative alternative to existing instructional or innovative practices or school structures that evidence-based practice suggests will be effective in improving student learning and educational performance. The legislation required the Board to establish expectations for plans of innovation, including goals and performance targets, which could include reducing achievement and opportunity gaps, implementing high standards for student performance and balanced assessments, increasing learning opportunities through integrated coursework, and providing additional learning choices such as personalized learning opportunities and experiences such as community service projects, and work-based learning. The plan of innovation could also include requests for exemptions from selected regulations, allowing school divisions to implement alternative policies to address local needs. The Board would also be required to establish a procedure for the ongoing evaluation of a SDI.

The proposed regulations establish the procedure and criteria for the designation of a SDI, and provide that the Superintendent of Public Instruction establish a format and timelines for local school boards to submit plans of innovation. The proposed regulations prohibit any exemptions to regulations that are mandated by state or federal law or are designed to promote health or safety, special education regulations, and certain provisions in the Standards of Accreditation. The regulations also include provisions to evaluate the performance of a SDI, including revocation in the event that performance expectations are not met.

At the Board’s March 22, 2018 meeting, amendments to the regulations were discussed to clarify whether an SDI must implement related innovations in every school in a school division, and to permit divisions to request waivers from teacher licensure regulations if not required by state and federal law. The proposed regulations have been amended to provide that innovative programs may be implemented in one or more schools within a school division, and to permit school divisions to request waivers to teacher licensure regulations. These changes can be found at [Regulations Governing the Designation of School Divisions of Innovation](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board of Education adopt for final review of the proposed *Regulations Governing the Designation of School Divisions of Innovation*.

Mrs. Atkinson commended Dr. Cave on her diligent work; however, she had concerns with the definition of school division of innovation. The original definition in the legislation states “each school” within a division but also states “a school” within a division in the proposed regulations. Dr. Cave replied that to change the language to state anything that occurs within that school needs to be in the plan of innovation.

Mrs. Lodal expressed her support for divisions of innovations and schools of innovation to have an obligation to share the good work that they are doing. Some schools have great ideas that should be shared broadly. Mrs. Lodal suggested including in the regulations the word “share” to require the sharing innovative programs so that others could learn from their work and experiences. Dr. Cave commented that this requested change would be made to require sharing of innovations.

Board members discussed whether to allow a single school within a division to receive the SDI designation or to require a percentage of schools. The consensus of the Board, considering the legislative intent, was to keep the regulatory language as originally drafted.

Mrs. Lodal made a motion to adopt the proposed *Regulations Governing the Designation of School Divisions of Innovation* with an amendment to include the word “share”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holton and motion carried.

E. Final Review of Revisions to the List of 2018-2019 Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses

Mr. George Willcox, acting director for the office of career, technical and adult education, presented this item to the Board for final review.

Mr. Willcox brought forth to the Board the technical changes, additions and deletions to the list of industry certifications, occupational competency assessments and professional licenses to meet the requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas in 8VAC20-131-50 (effective for students entering ninth grade prior to the 2018-2019 school year) and the Board’s graduation requirements as identified for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas in 8VAC20-131-51 (effective for students who enter the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year)

Mr. Willcox noted 15 technical changes in the board item that were made in order to align with exams, updates and assessments by industry. Twenty new credentials were been added and three credentials were discontinued, which are no longer offered by the providers.

Mr. Willcox provided follow-up to Dr. Wallace’s question from the March 22 meeting regarding the inclusion of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) in the list of approved industry certifications, occupation competency assessments, and professional licenses. The staff researched the license requirements with the division of teacher education and licensure and found that the Praxis has three components: reading, writing and mathematics. The VCLA has been approved by the Board to substitute for two of the three (reading and writing) components. If students pass the VCLA, they can receive credit for the reading and writing portions of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests. The full list of industry or trade association certification examinations, professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments that meet the Board’s requirements can be viewed at [CTE List](#). The list of industry credentials also meets the criteria to satisfy the requirements for the Career and Technical Education Seal and the Seal of Advanced Mathematics and Technology.

Out of an abundance of caution, Mrs. Atkinson requested to recuse herself from voting on certain aspects of this list due a conflict of interest with her husband’s representation of certain companies.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the 15 technical changes, 20 new additions and three discontinued industry certification examinations, occupational competency assessments, and professional licenses excluding the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) Cyber Ops Examination (Cisco Systems, Inc.) and the Cisco Python Certified Associate Programmer (PCAP) Examination (Cisco Systems, Inc.) to meet the Board of Education’s requirements for (1) graduation effective for the students entering ninth grade prior to the 2018-2019 school year, (2) requirements for graduation effective with the students who enter the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year, and beyond.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the above recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and carried unanimously.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) Cyber Ops Examination (Cisco Systems, Inc.) and the Cisco Python Certified Associate Programmer (PCAP) Examination (Cisco Systems, Inc.) to meet the Board of Education's requirements for (1) graduation effective for the students entering ninth grade prior to the 2018-2019 school year, (2) requirements for graduation effective with the students who enter the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year, and beyond.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the above recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal. Out of an abundance of caution, Mrs. Atkinson recused herself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest with her husband's representation of certain companies. The motion carried.

F. First Review of Request for Approval of an Innovative Program Opening Prior to Labor Day (Year-Round Schools) for Chesterfield County Public Schools' Bellwood Elementary School

Mr. Zachary Robbins, director for policy, presented this item to the Board for first review. Mr. Robbins introduced Dr. James Lane, superintendent and Dr. Thomas Taylor, chief academic officer, who spoke on behalf of Chesterfield County Public Schools.

Chesterfield County Public Schools (CCPS) requested a waiver to permit Bellwood Elementary School to open before Labor Day to allow an innovative program to be implemented, specifically, a year-round school. Section 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires local school divisions to set their calendars so that the first day of school each year is no earlier than the day after Labor Day, unless a waiver is provided to the Board of Education. One permissible reason for which the Board may grant a waiver is to allow a school division to implement an innovative program, including an instructional program offered on a year-round basis. These waivers would only be applicable to the individual school where the innovative program is being implemented.

CCPS received a \$50,000 grant from VDOE to assist with planning and consideration of transitioning as many as three of its schools with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students to a year-round schedule. CCPS plans to implement the pilot program at Bellwood Elementary starting with the 2018-2019 school year, and possibly expand to two other schools in the future.

CCPS's proposal is intended to reduce "summer learning loss," which research shows is more acute among economically disadvantaged students. The division proposed four instructional quarters of about 45 days with breaks of about fifteen days each. The breaks would provide opportunities for students to participate in programs of remediation, enrichment, or extracurricular activities. CCPS developed measurable objectives to evaluate the success of the year-round program based on student progress in reading assessments for grades two through five. Surveys were sent to each Bellwood family (557 students), which included information about offerings and the proposed calendar change. CCPS received responses of 88.7 percent in favor of a year-round school calendar at Bellwood. Additionally, there was ample support from students, staff, and the school board to transition to a year-round school model.

Dr. Taylor, Dr. Lane and the school board of CCPS respectfully requested the Board's approval of the waiver to allow Bellwood Elementary to operate a year-round school calendar.

Board members commended and thanked Dr. Lane and Dr. Taylor for the hard work and bringing forth the request.

Dr. Wilson acknowledged that CCPS request has a tight timeline given the proposed calendar begins in July 2018. Dr. Lane responded that CCPS is hopeful for expedited approval from the Board.

Mr. Romero shared his experience working with schools that had implemented a year-round school model and found that the schools went back to traditional model, often times because of funding. Mr. Romero asked if CCPS had a plan for sustained funding. Dr. Lane responded that there was a commitment from the local school board and the community for sustained funding of this program.

Mrs. Lodal commended CCPS on all their hard work done on this proposal. She stated that she was very interested in hearing feedback on the program and encouraged the Board to expedite the approval process.

Mrs. Lodal made a motion to waive first review and grant **approval of an innovative program opening prior to Labor Day (Year-Round Schools) for Chesterfield County Public Schools' Bellwood Elementary School**. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and carried unanimously by eight members.

Mr. Gecker requested that CCPS staff continue to collect data and update the Board of the progress of the year-round program at Bellwood Elementary.

G. First Review of the Guidelines for Training on the Prevention of Trafficking of Children as required by House Bill 2282 (2017)

This item was removed from the agenda and will be presented at June 28, 2018 meeting of the Board.

H. First Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board of Education Advisory Committees

Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations, presented this item to the Board for first review.

The Board of Education has five advisory committees:

- State Special Education Advisory Committee;
- Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education;
- Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted;
- Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure; and
- Adult Education and Literary Advisory Committee.

Appointments to an advisory committee shall be for a term of three years. Members of an advisory committee may be re-appointed, with no member serving more than two consecutive three-year terms. Some of the Board's advisory committees require specific categories of expertise or geographic representation pursuant to state or federal law or regulation. For all

committees, the Board of Education seeks to have diverse representation among the appointees.

The call for nominations to fill the advisory committee vacancies was shared with school divisions, education associations, individuals who asked to be notified of the Board's business on March 2, 2018.

Following the close of the nomination period, Virginia Department of Education staff that work with the advisory committees reviewed the nominations and made recommendations for appointments and re-appointments based upon qualifications, and on the required categories for membership. The terms for advisory committee appointment begin July 2018 and end June 2021 unless otherwise noted. The recommended nominations to fill vacancies are as follows:

State Special Education Advisory Committee

DaleAnna Carter Curry
Teacher, Caroline County Public Schools
Representing: a Teacher from a Virginia School Division
Region: 5

Meredith Barber
Assessment Specialist, Waynesboro City Public Schools
Representing: Parent of a Student with a Disability from Region 5
Region: 5

Theresa McNeil
Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Representing: Parent of a Student with a Disability from Region 7
Region: 7

Jill Sowers Becker (Re-appointment)
Representing: Department of Juvenile Justice
Region: 1

Damon Garrison (Re-appointment)
Representing: a Parent of a Student with a Disability from Region 2
Region: 2

Joan Sumner (Re-appointment)
Representing: a Parent of a Student with a Disability from Region 3
Region: 3

Tashue Mason (Re-appointment)
Representing: a Parent of a Student with a Disability from Region 8
Region: 8

Matthew Luther (Re-appointment)
Representing: State Agency (Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS))
Region: 1

Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education

Tomeka C. Dowling (Re-appointment)

Assistant Professor, University of Virginia School of Nursing
Career Cluster: Health Science
Region: 5

Drexel N. Harris (Re-appointment)
Project Director, Educational Institutions Strategic Programs, Dominion Services
Career Cluster: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Region: 1

S. Stewart Harris, Jr. (Re-appointment)
Program Director, Advance Integrated Manufacturing (AIM)
Career Cluster: Manufacturing
Region: 2

Suzanne Mallory-Parker (Re-appointment)
Turnaround Arts: Richmond
Career Cluster: Arts, A/V Technology and Communications
Region: 1

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

Dr. Rodney L. Berry
Superintendent, Nottoway County Public Schools
Region: 8

Carol B. Carter
Superintendent, King and Queen County Public Schools
Region: 3

Kimberly K. Tupponce
Gifted Resource Teacher, King William County Public Schools
Region: 3

Korri Garrett Williams
Teacher/Honors Program Coordinator, WJCC Public Schools
Region: 2

George Fohl, Jr. (Re-appointment)
Gifted Education Specialist, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Region: 1

Sarah Haywood (Re-appointment)
Gifted Education Coordinator, York County Public Schools
Region: 2

Laura C. Kelly (Re-appointment)
Supervisor of Gifted and Advanced Programs and RtI, Roanoke City Public Schools
Region: 6

Kirsten Maloney (Re-appointment)
Education Specialist, Advance Academic Programs, Fairfax County Public Schools
Region: 4

Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey (Re-appointment)
Gifted Instructional Specialist, Virginia Beach Public Schools
Region: 2

Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure

Adam Evans (Re-appointment)
AVID Elective Teacher and Site Director, Charlottesville City Public Schools
Representing: Classroom Teacher (Middle)
Region: 5

Jennifer Andrews (Re-appointment)
Exceptional Education Teacher, Henrico County Public Schools
Representing: Classroom teacher (Secondary)/Special Education
Region: 1

Brian McGovern (Re-appointment)
Social Studies Teacher, Peninsula Catholic High School
Representing: Classroom teacher (Nonpublic school)
Region: 2

Dr. Andrew Daire (Re-appointment)
Dean, School of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University
Representing: Higher Education (Public)
Region: 1

Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt (Re-appointment)
Director of Teacher Education, University of Richmond
Representing: Higher Education (Private)
Region: 1

Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee

Tammy Dean
Program Director for Practical Nursing, Prince William County Public Schools
Region: 4

Allan Melton
Manager Product Training, The Apprentice School, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Newport News
Shipbuilding
Region: 2

Bruce Sobczak (Re-appointment)
Principal Consultant, SOBO Associates, LLC
Region: 1

Ellen Osborne (Re-appointment)
Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/Albemarle
Region: 5

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive for first review the recommended nominees to fill vacancies on its advisory committees.

Mr. Gecker asked if the Board could waive first review and approve the appointments. Ms. Webb responded that the Board could take that action.

Mrs. Atkinson made a motion to waive first review and approve the appointments and reappointments nominated for Board of Education Advisory Committees as stated above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lodal and carried unanimously by eight members.

REPORTS

I. Legislative Report: 2018 General Assembly (written report)

Dr. Cynthia Cave, assistant superintendent for policy and communications, provided a written report for the Board of Education on the actions from the 2018 Virginia General Assembly. The written report included the actions from the governor and General Assembly from the reconvene session on April 18, 2018.

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

Report from Committee on Evidence-based Policymaking

Mrs. Atkinson, on behalf of Ms. Adkins, provided a report from the April 2, 2018 committee meeting.

The committee received a presentation from Ms. Carol Sylvester, title II coordinator on Virginia's Plan to Ensure Excellent Educators for All Students. Originally, this plan was developed in 2006 as part of *No Child Left Behind*, with the main goal of ensuring teachers were highly qualified. The plan was updated in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2015. Since the overhaul and passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the department has not received clear guidance on the future of this plan.

Ms. Sylvester provided an overview of the 2015 Teacher Equity plan and provided updates to certain data sets, if they were available. The six areas of focus for strategies in the plan are:

- Data systems;
- Teacher preparation and out-of-field teaching;
- Recruitment and retention;
- Professional development;
- Working conditions; and
- Policy coherence.

The plans that were submitted to USED in 2015 included:

- An analysis of state data to identify equity gaps;
- Considerations of root causes of equity gaps;
- Identification of strategies lined to root causes;
- Engagement of teacher, principals, divisions, parents, and community organizations; and

- The process for ongoing monitoring and report.

Overall, the preliminary data that Carol Sylvester reviewed with us shows that Virginia has small gaps in teacher quality between Title I and non-Title I schools. However, this data was presented as statewide data, not by division. The committee has requested to see further data at the division level to get a more accurate picture of these potential gaps in teacher quality.

In addition to the data, Ms. Sylvester highlighted a few best practice divisions who are doing great work in professional development, community engagement, equity, working conditions, and grow your own programs. The May meeting will feature some of these divisions.

Following this presentation, the committee held a thoughtful discussion on the definition of equity and the 1993 Massachusetts court case, *McDuffy v. Secretary of Education*. The discussion centered on questions from the Massachusetts case and what Virginia can learn from their success.

The next committee meeting, scheduled for May 22, 2018, will feature discussions with local school divisions on what they need to ensure teacher quality and highlight school divisions that have best practices in this area. Additionally, the committee will continue to refine its definition of equity.

General Discussion

Mr. Dillard shared with Board members that the federal budget that was approved has additional funding to hire more school counselors. This information will be forwarded to staff of the Student Assessment & School Improvement division.

Ms. Holton commended Ms. Webb, Dr. Constantino and staff for the great presentations during the retreat and work session involving the teacher shortages. Ms. Holton asked if the Board could follow up or receive updates periodically in order not to lose momentum from the retreat. Mrs. Lodal agreed and recommended that henceforth at every meeting, a portion is devoted to the topics of equity and teachers.

Mr. Dillard shared that NASBE is accepting applications for their national cohort program, Leading for Equity and Excellence Project. All Board members are invited to participate.

Mr. Gecker shared that he plans to meet with Dr. Constantino, Mrs. Atkinson and Ms. Webb to review the highlights of the presentations from the retreat and work session to discuss next steps.

WORK SESSION

Board of Education members met for a public work session, beginning at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, with the following members present: Mr. Gecker, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dillard, Mrs. Lodal, Mr. Romero, Dr. Wilson, Ms. Holton, and Dr. Wallace. The following department staff also participated: Dr. Steve Constantino, acting superintendent of public instruction.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive presentations from the 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Michelle Cottrell-Williams, and Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President and CEO of

the Learning Policy Institute.

Mrs. Cottrell-Williams provided an inspirational message to the Board along with her story and experiences with teaching.

Dr. Darling-Hammond provided a presentation, via Zoom, on her research related to teacher attraction and retention from her August 2017 report entitled, [*Teacher Turnover: Why It Matters and What We Can Do About It*](#).

Due to accessibility, we are not able to post copies of Mrs. Cottrell-Williams or Dr. Darling-Hammond's presentations. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact Ms. Sonya Broady at sonya.broadly@doe.virginia.gov. The full recording of the work session is available on the Board's website at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/index.shtml#worksession>.

The work session adjourned at 11:45a.m.

LUNCH MEETING

The Board met for lunch on Wednesday April 25, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at the James Monroe State Office Building, 25th Floor, with the following members present: Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dillard, Mr. Gecker, Ms. Holton, Mrs. Lodal, Mr. Romero, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Wallace. The following department staff was present: Dr. Steven Constantino, acting superintendent of public instruction and Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations.

During lunch, the Board had an informal discussion on Virginia's teacher shortage challenges.

Lunch ended at 12:30 p.m.

DINNER MEETING

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday April 25, 2018 at 6 p.m., at the Berkley Hotel with the following members present: Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dillard, Mr. Gecker, Ms. Holton, Mrs. Lodal, Mr. Romero, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Wallace. The following department staff attended Dr. Steven Constantino, acting superintendent of public instruction, and Ms. Emily Webb, director of board relations. The following topics were discussed informally:

- The presentation from the Virginia Teacher of the Year;
- Staffing flexibility;
- Teacher evaluations;
- Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond's presentation from the work session; and
- Proposed procedural guidelines for conducting licensure hearings.

No votes were taken, and the dinner meeting event ended at 7:35p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Daniel A. Gecker, President