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MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Committee on School and Division Accountability
Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 2 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

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Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) Members were present for the February 25, 2015 Committee on School and Division Accountability meeting: Diane Atkinson, Christian Braunlich, Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr., Joan Wodiska, James Dillard, Darla Edwards, Elizabeth Lodal, and Dr. Steven Staples, the superintendent of public instruction.

Mrs. Atkinson, chairman of the committee, convened the meeting and welcomed the Board members and guests. She introduced the new Board member, Mrs. Elizabeth Lodal.

Mr. Braunlich announced the 6 p.m. Board dinner and the Board meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 26, have been cancelled due to the inclement weather. He indicated agenda items for the cancelled meetings will be moved to the agenda for March.

Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2015, Committee Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2015, committee meeting, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by the committee members.

Public Comment

Mrs. Atkinson opened the floor for public comment.

Sandra Brooks stated she is in support of VA Code §22.1-203 (daily observance of one minute of silence).

Mrs. Atkinson asked if there was anyone else who wished to provide public comment. There being no other public comment, she moved to the next agenda item.

Overview of Current Report Card

Charles Pyle, director of communications, made this presentation.

Mr. Pyle provided historical information about the school report card and included a comparison of where we were and where we are now. He described Virginia's School Report Card and its components. Mr. Pyle discussed data elements required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), ESEA Waivers, Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting the Public Schools in Virginia, and the Code of Virginia. He also provided feedback from the Centers for Innovative Technology's four focus groups which revealed, in part, the school report card should be user friendly, include graphics and graphs, and be tailored to include information that is meaningful to the end user.

There was discussion about the design mock-ups Mr. Pyle included in the presentation. Mr. Dillard asked about the requirements in place for printing the school report card. Mr. Pyle said

the school report card must be available to anyone. It is online, but if parents do not have access to the Web, they may request a copy from the school's administrative office.

Mrs. Atkinson noted there is a variety of information in the school report card; some is state and some is local. She stated the school report card should be comparable and understandable to parents. Ms. Wodiska indicated the report card is a snapshot of data. Mr. Pyle said the school report card is generated from data housed in the Department. It is a dynamic document, and is created at the time it is requested. There are other tools on the Web site by which parents can create their own customized report card. The school report card information is locked down in the Fall and then refreshed. Mrs. Atkinson asked if there are links in the report. Mr. Pyle replied links are not currently in the report.

Other State/Report Card Options

Laurie McCullough, executive director, Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum development made this presentation.

Ms. McCullough presented considerations and state examples of school report cards. She said the purpose of the school report card is to indicate student, educator, and school measures. Possibilities for content included which data could be measured and how. She spoke about the design, noting the school report card could contain comparisons, composites and show an annual snapshot, or dynamic interface. Ms. McCullough provided examples of descriptors of rating systems and provided the Innovation Committee's recommendations to the Board, noting the A-F system might not be as descriptive as some of the others. She provided examples of other states' school report cards and noted indicators and features parents rated as most helpful.

Dr. Cannaday asked about the cost to create and maintain a school report card similar to the examples provided. Mr. Braunlich also asked about development costs and the timeframe it would take. Ms. McCullough said she will research and provide the information.

Potential Report Card Requirements Under the Reauthorized ESEA

Shelley Loving-Ryder, assistant superintendent, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement made this presentation.

Mrs. Loving-Ryder provided a list of data elements required for state and local educational agency report cards as outlined in Section 1111(h) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended, compared to the proposed requirements in 2015 Senate and House reauthorization bills. The required elements are clarified in the *State and Local Report Cards Non-Regulatory Guidance under Title I, Part A* (2013). The three categories of reporting data ESEA requires are assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. Mrs. Loving-Ryder noted changes to the ESEA requirements outlined in the House and Senate bills: In the area of assessment, there are some additions; in the area of accountability, the House bill adds a seven-year graduation rate. She also provided optional report card data elements required by the ESEA.

Mr. Dillard asked about the NAEP requirements. Mrs. Loving-Ryder indicated there are no changes to reporting in that regard on the school report card.

Remarks from the Assessment and Accountability Roundtable

Emily Webb, government relations coordinator, Virginia School Boards Association, Sarah Gross, Virginia Parent Teacher Association, and David Ellena, past president, Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, made this presentation.

Ms. Webb spoke about the bills of interest in the 2015 General Assembly. She noted that school report cards that are easy to understand and demonstrate transparency are one of the themes.

Mr. Braunlich asked if there are elements that need to be in both the report card and in the standards of accreditation, and if there is an overlap. Ms. Webb said discussion is ongoing.

Ms. Gross spoke about the software parents can use to obtain a real-time report card of their children's' progress. She indicated data should be reported clearly and in a timely fashion for maximum benefit to educators and families. She also noted challenges and opportunities.

Mr. Ellena spoke about assessment of progress. He suggested adding indicators showing schools that were accredited with progress and accredited with significant progress.

Mrs. Atkinson asked if there were school with special circumstances. Mr. Ellena said new schools and schools with a conditional accreditation plan are schools with special circumstances.

The Board thanked the group for their presentation.

Mr. Braunlich reminded members and guests the 6 p.m. board dinner and the Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2014 have been cancelled due to inclement weather.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.