

Draft
Virginia Board of Education
Special Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking
Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 3:30p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia

Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the January 24, 2018 meeting of the Special Committee on Evidence-Based Policymaking: Kim Adkins; Diane Atkinson; Daniel Gecker; Anne Holton; Elizabeth Lodal; Sal Romero, Jr.; Dr. Tamara K. Wallace; and Dr. Jamelle Wilson. Dr. Steven Constantino, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction, was also present.

Ms. Adkins, chair of this committee, convened the first meeting of this committee at 3:30p.m.

Public Comment

No one addressed the Board during public comment.

Presentation

Ms. Adkins provided an overview of the committee's charge and initial tasks. She noted that the special committee should finish their work in the next seven to eight months.

The special committee was approved at the Board's November 2017 meeting. The initial charge of the special committee was to research educational equity. President Gecker provided additional considerations.

The presentation is available on the [Special Committee's website](#).

Discussion by Committee Members

Ms. Adkins posed questions two questions to the committee: what approach should the committee take in tackling issues within equity and what steps should the committee take with our determined approach?

Dr. Wilson wondered where school discipline would fall in the equity discussion; should it fall under access to high-level curricula. Ms. Adkins

Mrs. Atkinson highlighted a recent report from the Commission on Civil Rights entitled *Public Education Funding Inequity in an Era of Increasing Concentration of Poverty and Resegregation*. You can access the report [online](#). Additionally, Mrs. Atkinson noted that there are several states currently reviewing and revising their funding models.

Mrs. Lodal stated that there is a lot of good work going on across the country in equity in education. She noted that equity is a focus on NASBE's upcoming legislative conference and that NASBE and ECS could be a great resource to the Committee's work.

Ms. Adkins encouraged the committee to choose a category or focus for their work ahead on equity given the short timeframe of the special committee.

Mr. Gecker encouraged the special committee to look at funding last and rather look at other best practices and solutions for equity in schools. He noted that educational equity has been a challenge for this country for decades. Possible areas of focus could include wrap-around services, access to early education, teacher quality, teacher distribution, and necessary support staff to adequately help students.

Mrs. Atkinson suggested the committee could have discussions with the Office of School Improvement to gather feedback on what can make an impact in schools.

Dr. Wilson concurred with Mrs. Atkinson and also suggested that the committee could learn best practices from local school divisions.

Ms. Adkins shared a story and conversation she had with a teacher in her area about access to courses.

Dr. Wallace encouraged the committee to think about developing a Profile of a Virginia Educator to better understand what Virginia is looking for in high-quality educators.

Ms. Holton agreed that access to teachers and teacher quality would be a strong focus for the committee's work and allow the Board to be more proactive.

Ms. Holton suggested that the committee think about the Board's process is for using good information to inform decision making and how the Board can be more thoughtful in decision-making and better utilize information from staff and outside partners.

Ms. Adkins summarized the committee's discussion to three areas:

- Teacher quality and development;
- Access for all students to have good teachers; and
- Evaluate the Board's overall process and other state boards' processes to affirm the Board's process in policy-making or come up with recommendations to have a revised process in place when developing policies.

Dr. Wilson encouraged the committee to really understand all of the layers of this complex issue given the short timeline for deliverables.

Mrs. Atkinson encouraged the committee to think about how the Board can assist the teachers already in the classroom with professional development.

Mrs. Lodal suggested that the Virginia Teacher of the Year address the committee.

Ms. Holton suggested that the committee focus their recommendations on items that are within the Board's authority to impact.

Ms. Adkins again summarized the committee's discussion into three areas and stated that the committee's work would stay within the Board's purview as suggested by Ms. Holton. Additionally, Ms. Adkins encouraged all Board members, not just those who were appointed to the committee, to attend future meetings.

Dr. Wilson requested that the committee receive an update on *Virginia's Plan to Ensure Excellent Educators for All Students* at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.