

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
July 21, 2021**

The Board of Education met in the Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President
Dr. Francisco Durán
Dr. Tammy Mann

Dr. Jamelle Wilson, Vice President
Ms. Anne Holton
Dr. Stewart Roberson

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Wilson made a motion to go into executive session under *Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (40)*, 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 Nancy Walsh, Tanya Kish and Kevin Foster, whose presence will aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roberson and was carried unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 11:03a.m. Dr. Wilson made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 11:15a.m.

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 would be recorded in the minutes.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker - aye
- Dr. Wilson - aye
- Dr. Durán - aye
- Ms. Holton - aye
- Dr. Mann - aye
- Dr. Roberson - aye

The Board made the following motions:

Dr. Durán made a motion to issue a license in Case #2. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried by Board roll call vote.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker - aye
- Dr. Wilson - aye
- Dr. Durán - aye
- Ms. Holton - aye
- Dr. Mann - aye
- Dr. Roberson - aye

Dr. Wilson made a motion to deny a license to Melanie Marie Kisling. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried by Board roll call vote.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker - aye
- Dr. Wilson - aye
- Dr. Durán - aye
- Ms. Holton - aye
- Dr. Mann - aye
- Dr. Roberson - aye

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned at 11:17a.m.



Daniel Gecker
President

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
July 22, 2021**

The Board of Education met at the Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Daniel A. Gecker, President
Dr. Keisha Anderson
Dr. Francisco Durán
Dr. Tammy Mann

Dr. Jamelle Wilson, Vice President
Dr. Pamela Davis-Vaught (via telephone)
Ms. Anne Holton
Dr. James Lane,
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and noted that Dr. Pamela Davis-Vaught would be participating in the meeting remotely due to a medical reason. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia and the Board's Bylaws, her electronic participation in today's meeting from Bristol, Virginia was approved in advance.

Mr. Gecker also noted an edit to the meeting agenda related to Item H. At the request of VDOE staff, this item was deferred to the September's agenda.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2021-2023

Dr. Lane asked for nominations for President of the Board. Ms. Holton nominated Mr. Daniel Gecker to continue serving in the role as President. The nomination for Mr. Gecker was seconded by Dr. Mann. There were no other nominations for President of the Board. All members were in favor of Mr. Gecker as President of the Board and the motion carried. Congratulations to President Gecker.

Mr. Gecker asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Dr. Durán nominated Dr. Jamelle Wilson to continue serving in the role as Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Mann. There were no other nominations for Vice President of the Board. All members were in favor of Dr. Wilson as Vice President of the Board and the motion carried. Congratulations to Vice President

Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approved the minutes of June 17, 2021, meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Davis-Vaught and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Rev. Robin Mines, Richmond Community Coalition, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools and Board
- Tisha Erby, parent and graduate of Richmond Public Schools, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools and Board
- Christopher Erby, student, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools and Board
- Theresa Kennedy, parent, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools and Board
- Jenny Aghomo, who was not present but comment was read by Ms. Kennedy in reference to the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools and Board
- Lakeisha Williams, teacher, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools
- Charles Willis, community activist, spoke on the governance of Richmond Public Schools
- LaBarbra Jones, parent and teacher, spoke on the governance and decision making in Richmond Public Schools

CONSENT AGENDA

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

B. Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund and Updates to the First Priority Waiting List

C. Final Review of Proposed Changes to Certain Accreditation Indicators in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Legislative Action in the 2021 General Assembly

D. Final Review of Fast-Track Regulatory Action to Amend the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel and Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia (8VAC20-23 and 8VAC20-543) to Comport with Legislation from the 2021 Session of the General Assembly

Dr. Durán made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

E. Final Review for Consent to the Establishment of a Joint-operated School – Region VII Virtual Academy

Michael Bolling, assistant superintendent for learning and innovation, presented this item to the Board on final review.

Dr. Keith Perrigan, superintendent of Bristol County Public Schools, Dr. Robert Graham, superintendent of Radford County Public Schools and Ms. Katilin Kazmi joined the meeting via telephone.

This item was final review of the formal request for consent to establish a joint-operated school in Virginia, as required by § 22.1-26 of the Code of Virginia. Section 22.1-26 requires the Board's consent when two or more school boards wish to establish a joint or regional school or program. Since first review, four additional school divisions in Superintendent's Region VII joined the original thirteen school division partners to create the Region VII Virtual Academy. The Region VII Virtual Academy is established to alleviate the participating school division demands of providing both remote and in-person learning opportunities.

Updated details regarding the establishment of the Region VII Virtual Academy were included in Attachment A.

The Region VII Virtual Academy aims to improve student access, outcomes and achievement by providing students an opportunity to learn in a remote space. This high-quality virtual environment assists in providing equity of access to diverse content that may not be available through responsible school, offers instruction differentiated on a per student basis, and increases participation and interaction with Virginia-approved curriculum.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board provide consent for the establishment of the joint-operated Region VII Virtual Academy.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the joint-operated Region VII Virtual Academy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Durán, Dr. Davis-Vaught recused from the vote and the motion carried.

F. Final Review of Revisions to Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension

Dr. Samantha Hollins, assistant superintendent for special education and student services, presented this item to the Board on final review.

The Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension was presented to the Board at the June 17, 2021, meeting. Some language in the original document had been modified to align more closely with prevention in tiered systems of supports and to address varied cultural perspectives. No additional feedback from school divisions and professional organizations was received since first review. Dr. Hollins noted the language edits on page 11, to make sure the message was very clear.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board approve the revisions to the Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension.

Dr. Durán asked for clarification on receiving feedback from stakeholders. Dr. Hollins stated that the department had not received additional feedback from stakeholders following first review.

Ms. Holton noted a concern on page 11, which stated, “the rich knowledge set, values, relational styles, and behavioral expectations cultivated and adapted at home under one set of socialization beliefs and practices often do not match up well with those in educational settings.” Her concern was with the word “often” and requested that it be changed to “may not.” Dr. Hollins stated that she appreciated the feedback and would make the change.

Dr. Durán made a motion to approve the revisions to the Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension with the change requested by Ms. Holton. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried unanimously.

G. Final Review of Revised Regulations for Licensed Child Day Centers Transferring from the Board of Social Services to the Board of Education

Ms. Jenna Conway, deputy superintendent for early childhood education, presented this item to the Board on final review.

Ms. Conway explained that effective July 1, 2021, the Board became responsible for establishing a unified public-private system for early childhood care and education in the Commonwealth, to be implemented by the VDOE. Chapters 860 and 861 of the 2020 Acts of the General Assembly require regulations governing the implementation and oversight of ECCE programs to be transferred from the Board of Social Services to the Board of Education. This regulatory action pertained to child day centers and brought the regulations into alignment with the federal reauthorization that passed in 2015.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board approve the revised Regulations for Licensed Child Day Centers transferring from the Board of Social Services to the Board of Education.

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the revised Regulations for Licensed Child Day Centers transferring from the Board of Social Services to the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Dr. Anderson and carried unanimously.

H. First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure Recommendations for Guidelines for Mentor Teacher Programs for Beginning and Experience Teachers

This item was deferred to the Board September meeting.

I. First Review of Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for Locally Awarded Verified Credits to Allow for the Use of Performance Assessments to Verify Credits in History/Social Science

Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, assistant superintendent for student assessment, accountability, and ESEA Programs and Mr. Michael Bolling, assistant superintendent for learning and innovation, presented this item to the Board on first review.

Mr. Bolling presented the proposed revisions to the *Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, 8VAC20-131-110 Standard and Verified Units of Credit: Locally-Awarded Verified Credit (the SOA Guidance Document)* to allow for the use of performance assessments to verify credits in history and social science. This item addressed language included in the 2020 and 2021 Virginia General Assembly's Appropriations Act that added "successful completion of assessments that include state-developed performance tasks scored locally in accordance with Board guidelines using state-developed rubrics" as an option for earning verified credit in history/social science. These amendments to the *SOA Guidance Document* provide guidance for local school divisions that exercise the option of using state-developed performance tasks, in conjunction with other local assessments, to determine if a student has earned a locally-awarded verified credit (LAVC) in history and social science.

Mrs. Loving-Ryder took time to acknowledge the support the department provided to school divisions in the use of performance assessment in history. She also acknowledged Christonya Brown, coordinator of history and Holli Cook, assessment coordinator, for leading the work on the revisions.

Mrs. Loving-Ryder reviewed each revision and noted that the strikethrough version was available as Attachment B of the item. A clean version of the guidelines is available in Attachment C.

The proposed revisions to the *SOA Guidance Document* establish a new pathway to earn a verified credit in history and social science through an amended LAVC process, using state-developed performance assessments, scored locally using the applicable state-developed common

rubric, in conjunction with other local assessments. LAVC earned through this new pathway would not be subject to the caps on the number of LAVC a student might earn.

The Board's requirement that local school boards adopt policies to govern procedures used to confer a LAVC under these guidelines still applies and is further clarified in the revised guidelines. In school divisions exercising the option to use this amended LAVC process, students who need the verified credit in history and social science to meet graduation requirements would not be required to take the associated history and social science SOL test. The provision of this new option for a LAVC in history and social science encourages school divisions to build and/or grow their capacity to administer performance assessments in history and social science and continues to build on the foundation for the use of this type of assessment model in the future.

To support the use of performance assessments, the Board is asked to remove language prohibiting the award of verified credit for performance assessments in history and social science from the *SOA Guidance Document*. This language describes legislation enacted by the 2018 General Assembly prohibiting the use of performance assessments in awarding verified credit in history and social science.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board accept for first review the proposed revisions to the *SOA Guidance Document* to allow for the use of performance assessments to verify credits in history and social science.

Dr. Wilson asked for clarification on the desk review process to ensure the Board and VDOE receive a wide perspective of what is going on across the Commonwealth as opposed to individual divisions. Mrs. Loving-Ryder stated that typically the VDOE desk review process takes a sample from 24 school divisions, three from each region. Sometimes divisions will be part of a desk review for two years in a row to evaluate progress over time.

Dr. Durán thanked the VDOE for the work done in this area. He stated that he hopes to continue to gather data on performance assessments beyond history and social science to expand to other areas in the future. He believes it will have a positive impact on students and teachers to better information instruction in meaningful ways. Mrs. Loving-Ryder shared that a benefit of the current situation is that there are state developed tasks and a state developed rubric to ensure consistency and commonality among divisions. There is a balance of history skills and history content in the history and social science performance assessment.

Dr. Lane shared that he has heard frequently that divisions must show that there is the capacity for performance assessments before the General Assembly will move forward with expansion to other areas. These revisions will open the door to more expansion.

Dr. Mann asked about how performance assessments are being utilized in other states. Mrs. Loving-Ryder shared that other states are using performance assessments but not to the extent that Virginia does in history and social science.

The Board accepted this item on first review.

PRESENTATIONS

J. Blueprint Virginia 2023 – Briefing from Mr. Barry DuVal, President and CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Barry DuVal, President and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Dietra Trent, Co-Chair of the Workforce and Education Blueprint Executive Committee presented the Board with their Blueprint Virginia 2030 plan. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2021/07-jul/item-j.pdf>.

President Gecker thanked Mr. DuVal and Dr. Trent for their presentation, and noted that the Board and the Chamber have many overlapping priorities. He noted that the priority around closing the achievement gap, raising the level of attainment for all student groups, has been a priority of the Board and the Chamber for quite some time. Closing the achievement gap will take more resources, and the manner in which funding is deployed locally would have an impact. President Gecker stated that he and Dr. Wilson, on behalf of the Board, would be interested in working with the Chamber on the draft of the Blueprint to make meaningful change. Mr. DuVal and Dr. Trent responded that the Chamber would value and appreciate the Board's input as the timing is right to affect the Blueprint process. Mr. DuVal shared that the end game of the Blueprint is advocacy, policy and funding. He stated that the Chamber likes to advocate for funding in specific areas. Mr. Gecker asked Ms. Webb to work with the Chamber staff to coordinate a follow-up meeting on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Holton suggested that the Chamber reach out to the education stakeholder groups in the development of the Blueprint process. She is pleased to see early childhood education as a key priority for the Blueprint to ensure continuity of this great work. Ms. Holton shared a number of the Board's priorities for the Chamber to consider in the Blueprint such as the Standard of Quality prescriptions and math pathways initiative.

Dr. Wilson asked Mr. DuVal to share any themes that the Chamber has identified during the engagement process and the impact of COVID on these themes. Mr. DuVal responded that the business community is interested in connecting learning to earning as a key theme. A lesson from COVID is that every student must have access to technology and connectivity for learning. Dr. Duran stated that is an opportunity to highlight adult education in the Blueprint and asked that adult ESL programs be included as it would impact the earning potential of the growing Hispanic population in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Mann thanked the Chamber for engaging with the Early Childhood Foundation. She noted that early childhood education is a public-private partnership and there is an opportunity to engage the business community in the financing of early care programs to ensure economic vitality.

Dr. Lane encouraged the Chamber to work with VDOE to coordinate terminology so that the education and business communities are speaking the same language. He noted that any Blueprint must be teacher focused, as there is a retirement and retention issue. Literacy should also be a focus. Mr. DuVal asked Dr. Lane to follow-up regarding specific terminology and data points that could be included.

Dr. Anderson complimented the Chamber on clearly communicating the Blueprint mission and vision and recognizing the importance of workforce challenging in the future.

WRITTEN REPORTS

K. Lifting of the Declared State of Emergency and Impact on State-level Waivers and Relief Measures

Dr. Leslie Sale, director of policy, provided the Board with a report on Lifting of the Declared State of Emergency and Impact on State-level Waivers and Relief Measures. The report can be viewed at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2021/07-jul/item-k.docx>.

L. Report on African American History Education

Ms. Christonya Brown, history and social science coordinator, provided the Board with a report on African American History Education. The report can be viewed at <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2021/07-jul/item-l.docx>.

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

Ms. Holton discussed the decision making process of Richmond Public Schools (RPS) and the Richmond City School Board as all of the comments received by the Board during the public comment section of the meeting were pertaining to the construction of George Wythe High School and the decision-making process of RPS and the school board. Although local board governance and school construction is out of the Board's purview, she asked how the Board could be helpful with the department's effort of school improvement. Dr. Lane responded that RPS is under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and governance was identified as a potential concern through their academic review. The school board was asked to adopt a new governance manual by July 1 and members will receive governance training from the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). In addition, Dr. Lane and President Gecker meet with the school board leadership to discuss their strategic plan and corrective action plan. The VDOE School


Improvement team has also been very helpful through this process. Dr. Durán asked for clarification on who from the VDOE staff will follow-up with the constituents who presented during public comment. Dr. Lane responded that VDOE school improvement staff will follow-up with the constituents who spoke during public comment. The Board discussed the MOU and governance process.

The Board requested to have regular updates on all of the divisions under MOU to better understand their progress and how the Board can help divisions reach their goals.

Dr. Durán shared that he is the co-chair of the Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Education work group, which is in the final stages of drafting recommendations to bring to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board of Education, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business meeting at 12:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan a. Gecker".

Mr. Daniel Gecker, President