

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
April 19 and 20, 2023

The Board of Education (Board) convened its business meeting on April 20, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Dan Gecker, President	Dr. Tammy Mann, Vice President
Ms. Grace Creasey	Dr. Pamela Davis-Vaught
Mr. Dale Sturdifen	Dr. Alan Seibert
Ms. Anne Holton	Mr. Bill Hansen
Mr. Andy Rotherham	Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Gecker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Gecker noted that he approved Dr. Davis-Vaught's participation from Bristol, Virginia, via electronic means due to medical reasons.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Holton made a motion to adopt the March 23, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand spoke about accreditation, solving chronic absenteeism and the proposed social studies standards.
- Anne Taydus spoke regarding parental rights.
- Kandise Lucas expressed concerns regarding special education.

- Krista Barton-Arnold spoke in support of VDOE recommendation for suspension of chronic absenteeism indicator.
- Jacob Downs spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Michael Murphy spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Ali Motamedi spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- James Lee spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Elisa Minock spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Philip Dotson spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Laura Hanford spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Toni Childress spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Cardell Patillo spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Andrew Rozell spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Michael Karabinos spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Paige Tucker spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Benjamin Miller spoke regarding changes in education.
- Diann Huber spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Emily Yen spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Kimberly Hammond spoke regarding retention and development of well-prepared and skilled teachers through alternative routes to licensure.
- Laura Estes, Ed.D. spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Dr. Mo Gaffney spoke in support for iteach in Virginia.
- Cheryl Binkley spoke regarding lab schools in Virginia.

- Zowee Aquino spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Ashley Elstad spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- David Walrod spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Jeffrey Coupe spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- John Jennings spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Nancy Lucy spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Nicole Holland spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Martha Muniz spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Ruse spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Bridget Cuthbert spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Maria Martin spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Stephanie Farmer spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Terell Fleming spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Marsha Donovan spoke about the changes that have taken place in public education.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education certify the individuals named on the attached list for the office of division superintendents of schools.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the list of qualified persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

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

Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive first review and approve Attachment A.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the Financial Report on Literacy Fund and Updates to the First Priority Waiting List. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

C. Final Review of Updates to the Board Approved Courses

Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM and Innovation, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The proposed changes include the following:

- adding two courses that satisfy graduation requirements, AP Pre-Calculus and AP Seminar for English
- updating School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) codes used to identify courses in which students are enrolled.
- reordering courses within each content area by SCED code.
- clarifying and updating language regarding state/federal testing and state graduation requirements.
- deleting unnecessary or outdated content; and
- improving accuracy, readability, and formatting.

The proposed updates are necessary to ensure appropriate notation of course enrollments in the Master Schedule Collection (MSC) by school divisions and that appropriate credits are used to satisfy graduation requirements, as well as to clarify answers to common questions.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposed updates to the [Board Approved Courses](#) on final review.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the updates to the Board approved courses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

D. Final Review of Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs

Dr. Joan Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

During meetings on January 9, 2023, and February 6, 2023, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs. The following is a list of the institutions of higher education and the new endorsements requested.

College/University	Education Endorsement Program	Program Level
Averett University	Early/Primary Education PreK-3	Undergraduate
Hollins University	Elementary Education PreK-6	Undergraduate
Mary Baldwin University	Elementary Education PreK-6	Undergraduate
Randolph College	Science-Biology	Graduate

Approving new education programs aligns with the Board’s Comprehensive Plan 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.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the New Education (Endorsement) Programs as recommended by ABTEL.

Dr. Mann made a motion to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

E. Final Review of Alternative Accreditation Plans for 2023-24 Accountability Year

Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability, and Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

Eleven special purpose schools in Virginia are requesting approval of alternative accreditation plans from the Virginia Board of Education (Board) for the 2023-2024 accountability year (based on 2022-2023 school year data). The following schools submitted applications:

- Arlington County Public Schools: Arlington Community High School.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools: Carver College and Career Academy;
- Danville County Public Schools: R.I.S.E. Academy;
- Fairfax County Public Schools: Kilmer Center School, Fairfax County Adult High School, Key Center School, Mountain View High School, and Bryant High School; and
- Loudoun County Public Schools: William Obediah Robey High School.
- Richmond City Public Schools: Amelia Street School, and Richmond Alternative School

Such schools are allowed to request this flexibility under [8VAC20-131-420](#) D of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (SOA).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board approve the applications for alternative accreditation plans from eleven special purpose schools.

Dr. Mann made a motion to approve the Alternative Accreditation Plans for 2023-24 Accountability Year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

F. Final Review of Proposal to Approve Only a Year-to-Year Comparison of State Assessment Results to Determine Growth for Accountability Year 2023-2024

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to Action/Discussion Items.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

F. Final Review of Proposal to Approve Only a Year-to-Year Comparison of State Assessment Results to Determine Growth for Accountability Year 2023-2024

Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability, and Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs submitted this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

This item was moved to the Action/Discussion section due to an error in the item material that was originally offered on the VDOE website regarding grade 3 growth assessment. However, the error was corrected before the meeting.

The proposed changes include the following:

- For grades 4-8: The use of only a year-to-year comparison of state assessment results in the methodology to determine whether a student demonstrated growth. A year-to-year comparison results in comparing a previous year's SOL test or Virginia Alternate

Assessment Program (VAAP) test to the current year's SOL test or VAAP test. This will allow the student's performance on the previous year's content to be compared to performance on the current year's content.

- For grade 3: Comparing the fall growth assessment results to the current spring SOL test results in the methodology to determine whether a student demonstrated growth. Since grade 3 is the first year in which students take an SOL or VAAP assessment in the spring, there is not a previous year's assessment from which to calculate growth. A fall growth assessment to spring SOL test comparison will allow the student's growth on the current year's content to be considered in accountability calculations. This is the same methodology used for grade 3 during the 2021-2022 school year (2022-2023 accountability year). Note that grade 3 students who participate in VAAP testing will not be included in accountability growth calculations because they do not take growth assessments.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board approve the revised Proposal to Approve a Year-to-Year Comparison of State Assessment Results to Determine Growth, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and until sufficient data is available to support a different methodology.

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert. This motion was carried unanimously.

G. Final Review of the Proposed Revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning

Christonya Brown, History Coordinator; Andrea Emerson, Secondary History Specialist; Brandi McCracken, Elementary History Specialist; and Dr. Christine Harris, Director of Humanities, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board continued work on the revised draft from its work session on April 19, 2023.

Ms. Brown requested the Board's permission to make any technical or clerical edits after approval of the document and thanked the Board for their feedback and support. Dr. Coons thanked the staff for their tireless work to incorporate the changes made at the work session. The Board confirmed that the changes discussed during the work session have been successfully incorporated into the document.

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve pages 6-61 of the Proposed Revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following motions were made in regards to the Guiding Principles/prefatory materials document:

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to rearrange the order of the implementation bullets on page 5 to start with students, then teachers, then the departments role, then parents. The motion was seconded Ms. Creasey. The motion was passed with Mr. Sturdifen voting against the motion.

Ms. Holton moved that language in the 6th bullet, which reads, "...do not imply students today are culpable of past events" be deleted and should read, "teachers should engage students in fact based, non-ideological ways." The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. This motion was not carried with Ms. Holton, Mr. Gecker, Dr. Mann, and Ms. Creasey voting for the motion and Dr. Davis-Vaught, Dr. Seibert, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Sturdifen and Mr. Rotherham voting against the motion.

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to change bullet 3 to align curriculum with standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to change the word "horror" to "indelible stain" in regards to slavery. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Holton made a motion to change the word "restore" to "inspire" in the first sentence of the prefatory material. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. This motion was not carried with Ms. Holton, Mr. Gecker, and Dr. Mann voting for the motion and Dr. Davis-Vaught, Dr. Seibert, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Sturdifen and Mr. Rotherham and Ms. Creasey voting against the motion.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to attach the prefatory document to the standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen. The motion carried by majority with Mr. Gecker, Mr. Rotherham, Mr. Sturdifen, Mr. Hansen, Dr. Mann, Dr. Seibert and Ms. Creasey voting for the motion and Ms. Holton and Dr. Davis-Vaught voting against the motion.

The Board members reflected on the process, noting that they labored over this document in a thoughtful and collaborative manner, and also expressed their thanks to constituents for their active engagement in public comments.

Dr. Davis-Vaught left the meeting after Item I and did not return to the meeting.

H. Final Review of Adoption of Special Provision to Suspend the Use of the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator for the Determination of Accreditation Status for Accreditation Year 2023-2024

Amy Siepka, Director of Accountability, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Because of the continued number of absences that school division leaders are reporting due to illness, the Board is again being asked to consider the adoption of special provisions ([8VAC20-](#)

[131-380](#) F 3) to suspend the chronic absenteeism indicator from the determination of school accreditation status for accreditation year 2023-2024 (based on 2022-2023 school year data). The proposal **does not request** that chronic absenteeism be removed from the accreditation model, as the other components and requirements in the SOA still apply to the chronic absenteeism indicator.

- All indicators, including chronic absenteeism, will have a rate and performance level calculated and reported on the School Quality Profiles for the school and division.
- The requirements of [8VAC20-131-400. Application of the school quality indicator performance levels to actions](#) applies to all indicators, including the chronic absenteeism indicator.

The proposal to suspend the use of the chronic absenteeism indicator from the determination of accreditation status **does request** that the accreditation status of a school will be determined using the performance levels of all indicators except chronic absenteeism.

- In the current accreditation system, if at least one indicator is a Level Three, the school is *Accredited with Conditions*.
- Suspending the use of the chronic absenteeism indicator results in a school being *Accredited* if the only indicator with a Level Three is chronic absenteeism.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education approve the proposal to adopt special provisions for accreditation year 2023-2024 to temporarily suspend the use of the chronic absenteeism indicator for the determination of accreditation status.

Mr. Hansen stated that he did not in support of this item, as it sends the wrong message about getting and keeping children in school. He also would like to see the correlation between what COVID funds have been spent to help get kids back in school.

Dr. Coons stated that absenteeism has a direct correlation between a child's ability to be successful in school and in life and that this is a focus that we need to work on together and attendance is essential for supporting our children.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to approve the Adoption of Special Provision to Suspend the Use of the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator for the Determination of Accreditation Status for Accreditation Year 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert. This motion was not carried with Mr. Sturdifen and Dr. Seibert voting for the motion and Mr. Hansen, Ms. Holton, Mr. Gecker, Dr. Mann, Mr. Rotherham and Ms. Creasey voting against the motion .

I. First and Final Review of Literary Fund Loans Recommended for Release for School Projects Award Loans through the Open Application Process

Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive First Review and approve the release of the Literary Fund loan requested by Rockingham County for the Broadway High School project.

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the First and Final Review of Literary Fund Loans Recommended for Release for School Projects Award Loans through the Open Application Process. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert. This motion was carried unanimously.

J. First and Final Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board of Education Advisory Committees

Jim Chapman, Regulatory and Legal Coordinator, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board waive first review and approve the recommended nominee to fill the vacancy on ECAC.

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the First and Final Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board of Education Advisory Committees. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann. This motion was carried unanimously.

K. First Review of Divisions Partnering with iTeach to Provide an Alternate Route to Licensure

Joan Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

On November 14, 2019, the Virginia Board of Education (Board) approved proposed *Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly (Guidelines)*. [HB2486 \(2019\)](#)

Pursuant to the *Guidelines*, the following school divisions have applied for an alternate route to licensure partnering with iteachUS:

Bedford County Public Schools
Chesapeake City Public Schools
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools
Hampton City Public Schools
Botetourt County Public Schools
Charles City Public Schools
Essex County Public Schools

Greensville County Public Schools
Middlesex County Public Schools
Newport News City Public Schools
Powhatan County Public Schools
Prince George County Public Schools
Roanoke County Public Schools
Shenandoah County Public Schools
Arlington County Public Schools
Dinwiddie County Public Schools
Henry County Public Schools
Mathews County Public Schools
Sussex County Public Schools
Westmoreland County Public Schools

Ms. Holton requested a side-by-side document of what is required in the Virginia methods course as opposed to iTeach and also requested that iTeach to have a chance to explain why they believe they do not need to add extra requirements. Ms. Holton also requested information regarding how successful the iTeach program is overall.

Mr. Gecker also requested some indication of whether the difference in requirements is meaningful in regards to student outcomes.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Education receive for first review the recommendation of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) panel to approve identified portions of the applications submitted by divisions partnering with iteach to provide an alternate route to licensure and endorsements pursuant to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly.

L. First Review of Guidelines for 2023-2024 of the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5)

Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended the Board receive for first review the *2023-2024 Guidelines for the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5)*.

M. First Review of Revisions to the Career and Technical Education High-Quality Work-Based Learning Guide

Dr. Anthony Williams, Interim Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the revisions to the *Guide*.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to waive first review and approve the revisions to the CTE High-Quality Work-Based Learning Guide. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen. This motion carried unanimously.

N. First Review of Revisions to the List of 2023-2024 Board of Education Approved Industry Credentials, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses

Dr. Anthony Williams, Interim Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the 24 additions to the Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses and remove 4 previously approved credentials.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the 24 new industry certification examinations, occupational competency assessments, and professional licenses to meet the Board of Education's requirements for (1) graduation effective with the students who entered the ninth grade in the 2018-2019 school year (and beyond), and (2) the Career and Technical Education and STEM Seals. Further, it is recommended the Board approve the removal of 4 credentials that are no longer offered by the providers.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and approve the Revisions to the List of 2023-2024 Board of Education Approved Industry Credentials, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Professional Licenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

O. Written Report on Update on College Partnership Laboratory Schools

The Board received the written report on College Partnership Laboratory Schools. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES – by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction

There will be a special meeting of the Board in May. The agenda will be limited and there will need to be a physical quorum. There will be no public comment at the special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business meeting at 3:26 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering disciplinary cases related to teacher licensure. Dr. Mann made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 40: Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

And that Deb Love and Abigail Gump, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, as well staff members Dr. Joan Johnson, Angela Schneider, Steven Burkarth, Tim Nuthall, and Kevin Foster, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:00 am. Dr. Mann made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 10:00 a.m.

President 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 Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia 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.

Board roll call:

- **Mr. Gecker-aye**
- **Mr. Rotherham-aye**
- **Mr. Sturdifen-aye**
- **Mr. Hansen-aye**
- **Mr. Seibert-aye**
- **Mrs. Creasey-aye**

- **Ms. Holton-aye**
- **Dr. Mann-aye**

Dr. Mann made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case No. 01. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen and carried unanimously.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to continue Case No. 03 so that the applicant can be available for some questions by the Board, whether in person or virtually. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen and carried unanimously.

WORK SESSION

The Board convened in a work session on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. The agenda and meeting materials can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#). The topics discussed included an update on the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning. No votes were taken.

DINNER MEETING

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at Native Plate restaurant with the following members present: Mr. Sturdifen, Ms. Creasey, Dr. Seibert, Ms. Holton, and Mr. Rotherham. The following department staff attended: Melissa Velasquez, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications, and Mr. Jim Chapman, Acting Director of Board Relations. No votes were taken. The dinner event ended at 8:30 p.m.



Mr. Dan Gecker, President