

College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

Monday, June 5, 2023

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) met in the conference room on the 22nd 00 Floor of the James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Committee Members

Ms. Joan Wodiska, Chair – Attended in person	Dr. Pam Moran, Vice Chair – Attended in person
Mr. John Bailey – Attended in person	Mr. Bill Hansen – Attended virtually
Mr. Andy Rotherham – Attended virtually	

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Joan Wodiska, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Rotherham and Mr. Hansen participated in the meeting remotely with the permission of the Chair, Ms. Wodiska.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Wodiska asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Dr. Moran made a motion to approve the proposed agenda for the meeting. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Mr. Rotherham seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no sign ups for public comment prior to the meeting. There was one person in attendance who wished to comment on a non-agenda item. Ann Thomas, of Emporia, Virginia, expressed her desire to start a charter school for grades k-3. Ms. Wodiska asked Mr. Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, to discuss the matter with Ms. Thomas and help provide the requested information.

Item A: First Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Southside Virginia Community College

Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff of the Virginia Department of Education, presented this item to the Standing Committee. Dr. Raley updated the Standing Committee regarding the completion and compliance of the College Partnership Laboratory School Application for Southern Career Academy, a laboratory school proposal from a collaboration between Southside Virginia Community College and Mecklenburg County High School. Representatives from the Southside Virginia Community College and Mecklenburg High School were in attendance to answer questions from the Standing Committee.

Ms. Wodiska requested that if there is any feedback regarding the process or if there are any identifiable points of friction to please let the Committee know so if there are any improvements that need to be made the Committee can make those improvements. Ms. Wodiska also requested more information regarding sustainability, eligibility criteria, including identifying students, and plans for family engagement.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept the application for first review and release for the public comment period. Mr. Rotherham seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously.

Item B: First Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Jeremy Raley Chief of Staff of the Virginia Department of Education, presented a review of documentation of complete and compliant Laboratory School Application for VCU x Code RVA Lab School, a laboratory school proposal from a collaboration between Virginia Commonwealth University (“VCU”) and Code RVA Regional High School. Representatives from both VCU and CodeRVA were present at the meeting to answer questions regarding the partnership and lab school application.

Ms. Wodiska requested a motion to waive the seven-day requirement for advance receipt of materials, as the materials for this item were only received four days prior. Mr. Bailey made a motion to waive the seven-day requirement. Mr. Rotherham seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously.

The Standing Committee requested that the applicants further explain how they plan to engage families in this opportunity. Ms. Wodiska encouraged the applicants to reach out if any questions arise or if any assistance is needed.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve accept the application for first review and release for the public comment period. Mr. Rotherham seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously.

Item C: First Review of Revisions to the College Partnership Laboratory School Application

Mr. Chapman presented this item to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee reviewed revisions to the College Partnership Laboratory School Application. Mr. Chapman expressed gratitude to the applicants as well as the Standing Committee on their collaborative involvement in this process. The Standing Committee accepted the revisions for first review.

Item D: Learning Pathways in Virginia: A Historical Perspective

Dr. Jeremy Raley Chief of Staff of the Virginia Department of Education, presented this item to the Standing Committee. Dr. Raley presented a history of lab schools as well as a review of the definition of a college partnership laboratory school, which includes the following elements:

- An independent, innovative public school built on partnership and evidence that is open to all students through a randomized selection process (lottery).
- Opportunities available to all students, with no barriers
- Performance based programs that deliver outcomes
- Serve as model programs across the Commonwealth
- Administered and managed by a governing board

Item E: Update of May 3 Innovation Incubator

Dr. Raley presented this item to the Standing Committee. On May 3, 2023, there was a day long summit for applicants and awardees for technical assistance, peer-to-peer discussion, and inquiry. The Standing Committee was provided a PowerPoint presentation that was provided to attendees of the Innovation Incubator.

Item F: Update on Approved College Partnership Laboratory School Planning Grants

Dr. Albon presented this item to the Standing Committee. Dr. Albon indicated that VDOE has received two new planning grant applications. One of the applicants still needs some technical assistance; however, Roanoke college has been awarded a planning grant. Roanoke College is hoping to have a lab school program for grades 9-12, with the first year being a cohort of 25 students.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

After consulting with staff, an additional meeting will be added on July 7, 2023, to consider the applications from SVCC and VCU in order to ensure that the application can be heard by the Board of Education before the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year. Dr. Moran made a motion to approve adding an additional Standing Committee meeting on July 7, 2023. Mr. Rotherham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on July 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the James Monroe Building in Richmond.