

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

June 25, 2026

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a business meeting on June 25, 2026, at Lipman Auditorium at Reynolds Community College, 1651 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228, with the following members present:

Mrs. Mashea Ashton, President

Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Mr. William Robinson

Mrs. Debbie Kilgore

Mr. Bill Hansen, Vice President

Dr. Amber Northern

Dr. Kimberly Bridges

Mrs. Ida McPherson

Mrs. Jenna Conway, Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Ashton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Ashton asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President Ashton recognized Mr. Hansen’s service on the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Bridges motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hansen motioned to approve the April 2026 meeting minutes of the Board as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Board enjoyed a student performance from the Cavalier Quartet from Lakeland High School from Suffolk County Public Schools

RECOGNITION OF 2026 PRINCIPALS OF DISTINCTION

Dr. Wilson read the Recognition of 2026 Principals of Distinction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Scott Brabrand, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, expressed appreciation for the final review of the simplification and streamlining of the yearly accreditation report, the final review of value tables to measure growth, the final

review of revisions to the school construction and assistance program, and the first review of the assessment and accountability roadmap. VASS expressed strong support for the change in the SPSF school performance labels. Lastly, Brabrand stated support for JLARC's recommendation concerning the reallocation of the EL progress indicator weight.

- Dr. Justin Hensley, a parent from Lynchburg, and his son Kevin Hensley, expressed concern regarding assisted technology accommodations during SOL testing.
- Dan Zacharias, Director of the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, spoke concerning credit transfers from non-accredited private schools to public schools.
- Banner Slack and Emma Lobo, students, spoke concerning licensure standards.
- Jenn Slack, from Our Neighborhood Child Day Center, spoke concerning childcare licensing standards in particular parent consent for screen time.
- Caroline Wagner, a teacher, expressed concern over childcare licensing standards and moment to moment tracking of children via a physical list.
- Neeley Minton, President of the Virginia Social Studies Leaders Consortium, expressed concern over the standards of learning and expressed support for evidence-based performance assessments and SB200.
- Derrick Max, Vice President at the Jefferson Forum, expressed concern over accountability and proficiency implementation.
- Thomas Johnson, a parent from Chesterfield, expressed concern over accountability and proficiency implementation.
- Philip Abou-Zaki, a resident of Midlothian, expressed concern over accountability and proficiency implementation.
- Amante Smith, a teacher from Charlottesville, expressed concern over additional mandatory professional development requirements for early childhood teachers.
- Angela Hairston, Superintendent of Danville Public Schools, spoke concerning Danville Public School's MOU and the division's journey toward systemic change.
- Todd Truitt, of Arlington Parents for Education, expressed concern over accountability and proficiency implementation.
- Mim Luangraj expressed concern over accountability and proficiency implementation.

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board heard three presentations from the Student Advisory Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

B. Final Review of Fast-Track Regulatory Action to Amend 8VAC20-70

The material for these items can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

C. Final Review of Divisions Eligible to Exit a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Board of Education

Dr. Quenton Ballard, Director, Office of School Improvement, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mrs. Kilgore made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

D. Final Review of Guidelines for 2026-2027 of the Early Childhood Unified Measurement and Improvement System (VQB5)

Erin Carroll, Deputy Superintendent of Early Childhood Care and Education, and Kris Meyers, Director of Quality Measurement and Improvement, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

E. Final Review of Virginia Textbook and High-Quality Instructional Materials Process

Dr. Michelle Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mrs. McPherson made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

F. Final Review of Revisions to Guidelines for the School Construction Assistance Program for the 2024-2026 Biennium

Christina Berta, Chief Operations Officer, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Bridges made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

G. Final Review of Virginia's School Accreditation System Report for School Year 2025-2026

Mark Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mrs. Kilgore made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

H. Final Review of Amendment IX to Virginia's ESSA Consolidated State Plan

Mark Jennings, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, presented this item

to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Bridges made a motion to approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

I. First Review of Assessment and Accountability Roadmap: Proficiency Implementation Plan and School Performance and Support Framework 2026-2027 Update

Anne Hyslop, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment, Performance, and School Improvement, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Hansen made a motion to adopt items 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the item as presented to the Board on first and final review. The motion was properly seconded. Mrs. McPherson, Mr. Hansen, Mrs. Kilgore, and Mrs. Ashton voted yes on the motion. Dr. Bridges, Dr. Northern, Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Robinson voted no on the motion. The motion failed for lack of a majority.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 8: Consultation with counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice.

And that legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, as well staff members, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 3:35 pm.

Mr. Hansen 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:

Dr. Bridges – aye

Mrs. McPherson – aye

Mr. Hansen – aye

Dr. Northern – aye

Dr. Wilson – aye

Mr. Robinson – aye

Mrs. Kilgore – aye

Mrs. Ashton – aye

Mr. Hansen made a motion to hear item 1 from Item I on first and final review. The motion was properly seconded and carried with an eight to one majority in favor. Dr. Bridges voted no on the motion.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to reject the staff recommendation on item 1 in Item I. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously with Dr. Bridges abstaining from the vote.

The Board accepted items 2, 3, 4 and 5 from Item I for first review.

***J. First and Final Review of Recommendations Regarding Literary Fund Loan Applications
Approval for Release of Loan Funds***

Christina Berta, Chief Operations Officer, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mrs. Kilgore made a motion to waive first review and approve the item as presented to the Board. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

K. First and Final Review of Appointments to Board of Education Advisory Committees

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, 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 waived first review and the motion was carried unanimously.

***L. First Review of No-Cost Extension for UVA Innovation Hub College Partnership
Laboratory School Start-Up Grant***

Calypso Gilstrap, Executive Director, Office of 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 Board accepted this item for first review and asked that the item be heard by the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee.

M. First Review of Academic and Career Plan Guidelines

Dewayne McClary, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, Student Pathways, and Technology, 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 accepted this item for first review.

N. First Review of Final Stage of New Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers

Jeff Williams, Assistant Superintendent, Child Care Health and Safety, 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 accepted this item for first review.

O. First Review of ABTEL's Recommendation to Add the Praxis Assessments for Russian, Chinese (Mandarin), and Latin; Elementary Subtest Assessments in Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science; New Assessment for Geometry.

Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Educator Preparation, 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 accepted this item for first review.

P. First Review of the 2023-2025 Biennial Approval of Education Endorsement Programs as Required by the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia.

Johnelle M. Torbert, Director of Teacher Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Dr. Wilson acknowledged that she is employed by the University of Richmond and that therefore she does have a personal interest in this item. She noted that the University of Richmond is one of many institutions of higher education addressed in this item. She affirmed that she is able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest. Dr Bridges acknowledged that she is

employed by Virginia Commonwealth University that therefore she does have a personal interest in this item. She noted that Virginia Commonwealth University is one of many institutions of higher education addressed in this item. She affirmed that she is able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

The Board accepted this item for first review

Q. First Review of Periodic Reviews of Regulations Schedule

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, 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 accepted this item for first review.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mrs. McPherson recognized Virginia State for its exemplary work in teacher preparation and the national recognition they have received. Dr. Northern recognized all Virginia universities who have received A+ recognition for teacher preparation. Dr Northern further recognized several Virginia Districts who were recognized recently as being “on the rise” by the education recovery score card. Lastly, Dr. Northern requested a presentation on the education recovery score card.

Mr. Robinson expressed support for the complex and conversations the Board engaged in concerning accountability and assessment. Mr. Robinson expressed a desire to engage in similar conversations regarding AI and workforce development.

Mrs. Kilgore expressed appreciation for Mr. Hansen and his service.

Dr. Wilson requested a work plan or schedule for future topics of discussion. Dr. Wilson thanked the superintendent and staff for their hard work

President Ashton expressed appreciation for Mr. Hansen and his service and thanked Superintendent Conway for her service so far as Superintendent of Public Instruction. President Ashton thanked the Board for their hard work going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ashton adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Mrs. Mashea Ashton

President, Virginia Board of Education