| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
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# Agenda Item: O

## Date: January 28, 2021

### Title: First Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board of Education Early Childhood Advisory Committee

#### Presenter: Ms. Emily V. Webb, Director of Board Relations

#### Email: [Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov) Phone: 804-225-2924

## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

## Executive Summary:

Superintendent’s Memo #296-20, dated November 6, 2020 (Attachment A), announced the call for nominations to fill vacancies on the newly established Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC). This committee was established as part of Chapters 860 and 861 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, which unify early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs across the Commonwealth under the VDOE. This committee will serve as the state advisory committee for the purposes of section 642B of the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.* A copy of the application can be found in Attachment B.

The call for nominations was shared with school divisions, early childhood membership associations, Smart Beginnings partners, ECCE providers across the Commonwealth, individuals who asked to be notified of the Board’s business, and others in the specialty areas of each committee.

Over 160 applications were received by the deadline of December 18, 2020. Applicants’ responses to the supplementary questions were reviewed by four Virginia Department of Education staff using a rubric to assess fitness for the categories of membership selected and alignment with the VDOE’s commitment to promoting equity and inclusion, quality, family engagement, and local innovation. Scores were averaged across reviewers to create an aggregate rating. Nominations for each legislatively-mandated membership category were made based on these ratings.

The Board’s advisory committees have three-year terms. The Early Childhood Advisory Committee requires specific categories of expertise pursuant the *Code of Virginia*. For all committees, the Board of Education seeks to have diverse representation among the appointees.

Committee terms will begin February 2021 and end June 2024 to coincide with other advisory committee terms. The list of nominees recommended for appointment are as follows:

Cecilia Suarez

Director, Creative Learning School

Representing publicly-funded, licensed ECCE providers

Region: 4

Jennifer Parish

Executive Director, Downtown Hampton Child Development Center

Representing publicly-funded, licensed ECCE providers

Region: 2

Clark Andrs

Owner, River’s Bend Children’s Center

Representing ECCE providers that are not publicly funded

Region: 1

Cheryl Morman

Licensed Family Day Home Provider

Representing publicly-funded family day home providers

Region: 1

Beverly Yoakum

Director, Hope Lutheran Church and School

Representing license-exempt ECCE providers

Region: 2

Christen Johnson

Director, First Presbyterian Weekday School

Adjunct Faculty, Lord Fairfax Community College

Representing license-exempt ECCE providers

Region: 4

Charisse Rosario

Head Start and STEP Supervisor, Loudon County Public Schools

Representing Head Start providers

Region: 4

Shikee Franklin

Head Start/Early Head Start Director, Hampton Roads Community Action Program

Representing Head Start providers

Region: 2

Angela Rouse

Executive Director, Roberta Webb Child Development Center

Representing Head Start providers

Region: 5

Darrell Turner

Virginia Preschool Initiative Teacher, Richmond Public Schools

Representing local school divisions or school boards that operate early childhood programs

Region: 1

Gina Wohlford

Superintendent, Norton City Schools

Adjunct Professor, Mountain Empire Community College and UVA Wise

Representing local school divisions or school boards that operate early childhood programs

Region: 7

Vivien McMahon

Vice President of Community Impact, United Way Roanoke Valley

Representing nonprofit ECCE advocacy organizations

Region: 6

Michelle Howard

Executive Director, Smart Beginnings Alexandria

Representing nonprofit ECCE advocacy organizations

Region: 4

Maryam Sharifian

Assistant Professor, James Madison University

Professional or faculty member with expertise in early childhood from a college or university in Virginia

Region: 5

Bweikia Foster Steen

Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, George Mason University

Professional or faculty member with expertise in early childhood from a college or university in Virginia

Region: 4

Deborah Bergen Nelson

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU

Representing the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Region: 1

Sandra Wilberger

Co-Director, Training and Technical Assistance Center at VCU

Representing an advocacy or service organization for children with disabilities

Region: 1

Taren McCoy

Owner, Small Steps Academy

Representing business owners, operators, and employees in Virginia

Region: 6

Sara Cook

Pre-K Teacher, Bristol Public Schools

Representing parents with children enrolled in publicly-funded ECCE programs

Region: 7

Grace Creasey

Executive Director, Virginia Council for Private Education

Representing Virginia Council for Private Education

Region: 1

Roberta Newman

President, Newroads Consulting and Consulting Coordinator, Smart Beginnings Eastern Shore

Board Member, Virginia Partnership for Out of School Time

Statewide nonprofit association representing before- and after-school nonprofit child care and preschool providers

Region: 3

Angela Wirt

Executive Director, Child Care Aware of Virginia

Representing a nonprofit entity that provides child care resource and referral services

Region: 1

## Action Requested:

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill vacancies on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:   
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill vacancies on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

## Rational for Action:

Board action is required on all appointments to Board advisory committees. As the term of service begins on February 1, 2021, Board action is requested at this meeting.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:   
Article Nine, Section 2 of the Board of Education’s bylaws states the following:

**Section 2. Advisory Committees.** Advisory committees may be created by the Board for special purposes to include, but not be limited to, federal and state-mandated committees. An advisory committee shall be composed of persons who represent the views and interests of the general public and who are known to be qualified to perform their duties. Personnel of the Department of Education may be appointed to the committee, as members or as consultants. Unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law or regulations, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction…

The Board of Education’s bylaws also specify the membership and term of service in Article Fifteen, Section 3 and 4, as follows:

**Section 3. Membership.** The Board shall determine the number of members to serve on an advisory committee, and shall appoint the members of the committee, as specified in Board bylaws under Article 9, Section 2, except as provided by state or federal law or regulation. Nominations for all vacant positions will be solicited as widely as practicable and on forms provided by the Virginia Department of Education. Members of advisory committees shall not receive compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with state travel guidelines set forth by the Department of Accounts. The Board, at its discretion, may appoint a member of the Board to serve as a liaison to the advisory committee.

**Section 4. Term of Service.** Appointments to an advisory committee shall be for a term of three years. Members of an advisory committee may be re-appointed, with no member serving more than two consecutive three-year terms. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Board.

The Board of Education currently has six advisory committees:

* Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)
* Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG)
* State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)
* Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee
* Advisory Committee for Career & Technical Education
* Early Childhood Advisory Committee

## **Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Following Board approval, Department staff will notify all applicants of the status of their application.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The operating expenses and other costs associated with the meetings and functions of the Board of Education’s advisory committees are provided through the Department of Education’s operating funds.

Where applicable, federal funds are provided to support the expenses and the work of an advisory committee.

# Attachment A – Superintendent’s Memo #296-20

  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: November 6, 2020 *(Revised December 3, 2020)*

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D. Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Call for Applications for Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC)

The Virginia Board of Education is seeking applications to serve a three-year term on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC), a new advisory committee to the Virginia Board of Education on all matters relating to early childhood care and education programs, systems, and regulations.

The ECAC will be an essential component of Virginia’s new unified early childhood system.

In July 2020, Governor Northam signed early childhood legislation ([SB578/HB1012](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title22.1/chapter14.1/)) that transitions oversight of the birth-five early childhood care and education system to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This legislation establishes the Virginia Board of Education and VDOE as responsible for oversight and administration of early care and education, and creates a single point of accountability for school readiness, effective July 1, 2021. The role of the ECAC will be to review and advise the Board on all programs, systems and regulations related to the unified early childhood system.

Please note that the [Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-289.04/) is expected to reflect the diversity of Virginia’s early childhood care and education (ECCE) system and the organizations that work to support children’s health and development. As such, specific categories of expertise are required by state law. For all committees, the Board of Education seeks to have diverse representation among the appointees.

ECAC membership categories and the number of vacancies available are noted below. The term of service will begin March 1, 2021 and end June 30, 2024 to coincide with other Board advisory committees.

* Publicly-funded\*, licensed ECCE provider (Two representatives, one of which is for-profit)
* ECCE provider that is **not** publicly funded\* (one representative)
* Publicly-funded\* family day home (FDH) provider (one representative)
* License-exempt ECCE provider (Two representatives; one of which is religious-exempt)
* Head Start provider (Three representatives, one of which is run by a school district)
* Local school division or school board that operates an early childhood program (Two representatives)
* Nonprofit advocacy organization focused on ECCE (Two representatives)
* Professional or faculty member with expertise in child development or ECCE from a Virginia college, university, or other institute of higher education (Two representatives)
* Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (One representative)
* Advocacy or service organization that focuses on serving children with disabilities (One representative)
* Business owner, operator, or employee in Virginia (One representative)
* Parent of a child enrolled in VPI, Head Start, child care subsidy, or other publicly funded preschool program (One representative)
* Virginia Council on Private Education (One representative)
* Statewide nonprofit association representing before- and after-school nonprofit child care and preschool providers (One representative)
* Nonprofit entity that provides child care resource and referral services (One representative)

## *\*"Publicly funded provider" means any (i) educational program provided by a school division or local government to children between birth and age five or (ii) child day program that receives state or federal funds in support of its operations that serves three or more unrelated children. "Publicly funded provider" does not include any program for which the sole source of public funding is the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.*

Educators, administrators, system leaders, advocates, associations and community members are invited to submit applications for these positions. Applicants who speak a language other than English are encouraged to apply.

The Board of Education’s bylaws prescribe the operation of its advisory committees as follows:

* Article nine, Section 2, of the bylaws states that advisory committees shall be composed of persons who represent the views and interests of the general public and who are known to be qualified to perform their duties.  Personnel of the Department of Education may be appointed to the committee, as members or as consultants.  Unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law or regulations, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
* Article fifteen, Section 3, of the bylaws states that members of advisory committee shall not receive compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with state travel guidelines set forth by the Department of Accounts.
* Article fifteen, Section 4, of the bylaws states that appointments to an advisory committee shall be for a term of three years. Members of an advisory committee may be re-appointed, with no member serving more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Applications may be submitted by completing the attached form. Please send the completed form to Emily Webb, Director for Board Relations, at [emily.webb@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:emily.webb@doe.virginia.gov). Applications may also be mailed to P. O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120.

**All applications must be received by Friday, December 18, 2020.**

Questions regarding the Board of Education’s Early Childhood Advisory Committee may be addressed to:

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| Emily Webb, Director for Board Relations  [Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov)  (804) 225-2924 | Rebecca Ullrich, Coordinator for Early Childhood Policy and Planning  [rebecca.ullrich@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:rebecca.ullrich@doe.virginia.gov)  (804) 371-7578 |

JFL/EVW/ru

**Attachment:**

1. [Application Form for Virginia Board of Education’s Early Childhood Advisory Committee](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/296-20a.docx) (Word)

# Attachment B

**APPLICATION FORM**

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Term: March 2021 through June 30, 2024

Submit a completed nomination form for each nominee **on or before Friday, December 18, 2020:**

Ms. Emily V. Webb

Director for Board Relations

Virginia Department of Education

[Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov)

The Board of Education is pleased to accept applications for the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC). The Committee will advise the Virginia Board of Education on matters related to early childhood programs, systems, and regulations.

1. **Membership Selection**

By law, the [Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) membership](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/22.1-289.04/) must reflect the diversity of Virginia’s early childhood care and education (ECCE) system and the organizations that work to support children’s health and development. Please indicate which of the following groups the applicant represents (check as many as apply):

Publicly-funded\*, licensed ECCE provider

For-profit

Non-profit

ECCE provider that is **not** publicly funded\*

Publicly-funded\* family day home (FDH) provider

License-exempt ECCE provider

Check here if religious-exempt

Head Start provider

Check here if operated by a local school division

Local school division or school board that operates an early childhood program

Check here if Head Start is the **only** program operated by the division

Nonprofit advocacy organization focused on ECCE

Professional or faculty member with expertise in child development or ECCE from a Virginia college, university, or other institute of higher education

Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Advocacy or service organization that focuses on serving children with disabilities

Business owner, operator, or employee in Virginia

Parent of a child enrolled in VPI, Head Start, child care subsidy, or other publicly funded preschool program

Virginia Council on Private Education

Statewide nonprofit association representing before- and after-school nonprofit child care and preschool providers

Nonprofit entity that provides child care resource and referral services

*\*"Publicly funded provider" means any (i) educational program provided by a school division or local government to children between birth and age five or (ii) child day program that receives state or federal funds in support of its operations that serves three or more unrelated children. "Publicly funded provider"* ***does not*** *include any program for which the* ***sole source*** *of public funding is the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.*

1. **Applicant Information**

**Please print or type**

Full Name of Applicant:

Current Title:

Employer:

Work Address:

Work Zip:

Home Address:

Home Zip:

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

E-mail:

Race/ethnicity (optional):

Gender (optional):

Primary language spoken (optional):

1. **Supplemental Questions**
2. Please provide a short personal narrative, including educational background, professional and work experience accomplishments, and community service. (Note: It is not necessary to attach a vita.) Explain what in your background makes you qualified to represent the groups selected in Section I. (max 400 words)
3. Ensuring that all young children in the Commonwealth have high-quality early care and education opportunities that support kindergarten readiness means committing to a culture of continuous improvement. In your opinion, what are the key components of high-quality early learning experiences, and what should the Board of Education do to support providers to make continuous improvement on these factors? (max 200 words)
4. In your opinion, what is the greatest barrier that persists related to equitable access to high-quality ECCE for children of color, dual language learners, children in immigrant families, and/or children with disabilities? What can the Board of Education do to dismantle this barrier? (max 200 words)
5. **References**

Please provide the names and contact information of two references that can speak to your personal or professional connection to early care and education. Individuals **do not** need to speak English to act as a reference.

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Preferred method of contact: Email  Phone

Primary language spoken