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

## Date: September 23, 2021

### Title: Final Review of Nominations to Fill Vacancies on Board Advisory Committees

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

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## Purpose of Presentation:

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws.

## Executive Summary:

The Board’s advisory committees have three-year terms. Some of the Board's advisory committees require specific categories of expertise or geographic representation pursuant to state or federal law or regulation. Vacancies arose on the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) and Early Childhood Advisory Committee after resignations due to job or location. A superintendent’s memo to announce the vacancies on SSEAC to solicit applications and nominations was issued on August 6, 2021 and closed on August 25, 2021.

The nominees recommended for appointment are as follows:

**State Special Education Advisory Committee**

## Ms. Melinda Hemp-Gardzinski

Licensed Behavior Analyst and Business Owner, Centra Health and Integrated Behavior Services

Representing: Parent from Region 5

Ms. Candace Barnette

Coordinator of Special Education, Nottoway County Public Schools

Representing: Parent from Region 8

Mr. Rusty Eddins

Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation and Transition (PERT) Director, Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

Region 5

Representing: A Vocational, Community, or Business Organization concerned with the provision of transition services for children with disabilities

**Early Childhood Advisory Committee**

Ms. Tina Alsop

Director of Federal Programs and Foundational Learning, Henrico County Public Schools

Region 1

Representing: Head Start Providers

## Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:   
The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the recommended nominee to fill vacancies on the State Special Education Advisory Committee and Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

## Rational for Action:

Board action is required on all appointments to Board advisory committees. To fill the current vacancies, 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.

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