# ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING

## *MINUTES*

Meeting Date and Location: November 16, 2020

Pursuant to Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) convened electronically on September 21, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus health emergency, the meeting proceeded under modified procedures. The meeting was open to the public for viewing. The meeting was livestreamed on the [VDOE YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrbxl9wHScrWKWIEoUWNIfQ/videos).

ABTEL Members Present: Ms. Jennifer P. Andrews

Dr. Nancy A. Bradley

Dr. Travis Burns

Dr. Garry Wayne Carter, Jr.

Dr. Andrew (Andy) Cox

Dr. Andrew Daire

Ms. Wendy L. Downey

Ms. Sarah Gross

Dr. Jessica Jones

Senator Jennifer L. McClellan

Ms. Tracey D. Mercier

Mr. Cardel C. Patillo, Jr.

Dr. Peggy Schimmoeller

Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt

Ms. Diane Carol Stubbins

Delegate Schuyler T. VanValkenburg

Mr. Philip Brandon Watt

Ms. Nancy B. Welch

Mr. Stephen G. Whitten

Ms. Charletta M. Williams

ABTEL Members Absent: Ms. Salena Paige Dickey

Ms. Mary G. McIntyre

Dr. Scott B. Ziegler

Ex Officio Members: Dr. Monica Osei

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Dr. Daniel C. Lewis

Virginia Community College System

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts

Virginia Department of Education

Department of Education Staff:Mrs. Maggie Clemmons

Ms. Tara McDaniel

Ms. Nancy Walsh

# FULL ADVISORY BOARD CONVENES

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) convened at 9 a.m.

### Opening Remarks and Welcome

Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt, Chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. She welcomed Anthony Swann, the 2021 Virginia Teacher of the Year; new ABTEL members, Senator Jennifer L. McClellan and Delegate Schuyler T. VanValkenburg; and Malik McKinley, from Educational Testing Service.

### Introductions

Advisory Board members and ex officio members introduced themselves.

### Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves to the Advisory Board members.

### Approval of Agenda

**Ms. Nancy Welch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Ms. Jennifer Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Cardel C. Patillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting with the correction that he (Mr. Patillo) was in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Tricia Stohr-Hunt announced that the September meeting was not recorded due to technical difficulties; therefore, review the minutes carefully. Ms. Jennifer Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

* No public comment was submitted to the Advisory Board.

## UPDATES

**Regulatory Updates to Comport with General Assembly Legislation**

Mrs. Patty Pitts updated Advisory Board members on the following agenda items presented to the Board Education during its October 2020 meeting. Links to the Board items are provided below.

[Final Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-g.docx)

The Board of Education approved the new education (endorsement) programs recommended by the Advisory Board.

[Final Review of a Process to Certify a List of Qualified Persons for the Office of Division Superintendents of Schools](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-i.docx)

Mrs. Pitts explained that a process was recommended to the Board to certify a list of qualified persons for the office of division superintendents of schools. The item was deferred for action until the Board of Education’s November meeting.

[First Review of Amendments to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, *Procedural Guidelines for Conducting Licensure Hearings*, and the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* to Comport with Legislation from the General Assembly](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-l.docx)

* + [Attachment A](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-l-attachment-a.docx)
  + [Attachment B](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-l-attachment-b.docx)
  + [Attachment C](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2020/10-oct/item-l-attachment-c.docx)

Mrs. Pitts outlined the revisions in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel,* the *Procedural Guidelines for Conducting Licensure Hearings,* andthe *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* to comport with legislation from the General Assembly. This Board item will be submitted to the Board of Education for final review on November 19, 2020.

**Revisions to the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers***

Mrs. Pitts provided an overview of the revision process of the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers.*

The current *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers*, originally were approved on April 28, 2011, and subsequently revised on July 23, 2015, and January 10, 2020. In January 2020, the weighting of the performance standards was revised. A workgroup, which was composed of Advisory Board members as well as teachers, school leaders, and professional organizations, was convened to comprehensively review the *Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers.* The Department of Education engaged Stronge & Associates Educational Consulting, LLC, to facilitate this work.

The research for performance evaluations and evaluation criteria was revised. The workgroup is discussing the incorporation of culturally responsive teaching and equitable practices into the performance standards*.* The guidelines and performance standards will be presented to the Board of Education for first review during its January 2021 meeting.

**Presentation by the 2021 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Anthony Swann**

Ms. Tara McDaniel introduced our 2021 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Anthony Swann, a fifth-grade teacher at Rocky Mount Elementary in Franklin County. He made an inspiring presentation, sharing his journey into the teaching profession and many of the initiatives in which he has been involved.

Swann began his teaching career in 2007 at Schoolfield Elementary in Danville. From 2013-2015, he taught at Stoney Creek Elementary in Caswell, North Carolina. Swann returned to Virginia in 2015, teaching at Johnson Elementary in Danville for two years before assuming his current position at Rock Mount Elementary in 2017.

In addition to teaching all subjects, Anthony Swann provides mentoring and life-skills coaching for fifth-grade boys through the Guys with Ties program he started at Rocky Mount Elementary in 2019. The program includes lessons on the importance of integrity, honesty and respect. The students are required to “dress to impress” twice a month and participate in 45-minute lessons. Swann also schedules guest motivational speakers several times a year.

Anthony Swann also helped develop Rocky Mount Elementary’s Cooperative Culture Initiative. The program rewards students for positive behavior and achievement and is credited with improving school culture and reducing disciplinary referrals.

Mr. Swann earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Averett University in 2007 and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Regent University in 2014. Anthony has taught elementary school for 13 years.

#### Agenda Item 1

**Recommendation for a Passing Score for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test for the Middle Education 6-8 Science Endorsement**

Mrs. Patty Pitts introduced Malik K. McKinley, Sr.,Director of Client Relations, Professional Educator Programs, Office for Teacher Licensure and Certification, Student and Teacher Assessment Division, Educational Testing Service.He made a presentation on the standard study, as well as provided an overview of the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442).

Currently, the Board of Education requires the following assessments for initial licensure:

* Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);
* Praxis Subject Assessments; and
* Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE) for specified endorsements.

The Board prescribes the Praxis Subject Assessments as a professional teacher’s assessment requirement for initial licensure in Virginia. The current Board of Education’s prescribed assessment for middle education science is the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440).

The Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) test will replace the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) test. This new test was designed and developed through work with practicing middle school science teachers, teacher educators, and higher education content specialists to reflect the science knowledge teachers need to teach the middle school science curriculum and to reflect state and national standards, including the National Science Teaching Association Preparation Standards for middle school science. Content and practices measured reflect the Disciplinary Core Ideas and Science and Engineering Practices established by the National Research Council in A Framework for K-12 Science Education and included in the Next Generation Science Standards.

In January 2020, a multistate standard-setting study was designed and conducted by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) test.

Panelists from 17 states and Washington, D.C., participated on the panel. The education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as either middle school science teachers or college faculty who prepare middle school science teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning middle school science teachers. ETS selected the participating panelist from the agencies’ nominations.

A detailed summary of the study, Multistate Standard-Setting Technical Report -- PRAXIS® MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE (5442) was presented. The technical report contains three sections. The first section describes the content and format of the test. The second section describes the standard-setting processes and methods. The third section presents the results of the standard-setting study.

The [Praxis® Middle School Science Study Companion](https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5442.pdf) document describes the purpose and structure of the test. In brief, the test measures the knowledge and competencies necessary for a beginning teacher of middle school science. The two and a half-hour assessment contains 125 multiple-choice items covering four content areas: Nature and Impact of Science and Engineering (approximately 17 items), Physical Science (approximately 38 items), Life Science (approximately 38 items), and Earth and Space Science (approximately 32 items). The reporting scale for the Praxis Middle School Science test ranges from 100 to 200 scale-score points.

### Multistate Standard-Setting Study

The Multistate standard-setting study for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) test is detailed in the report.

The following table presents the estimated conditional standard error of measurement (CSEM) around the recommended passing score. A standard error represents the uncertainty associated with a test score. The scale scores associated with one and two CSEM above and below the recommended passing score are provided. The conditional standard error of measurement provided is an estimate.

**Conditional Standard Error of Measurement Summaries**

**PRAXIS® MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE (5442)**

|  | Raw Score | Scale Score Equivalent |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Recommended passing score (CSEM) | 61 (4.90) | 152 |
| - 2 CSEM | 52 | 140 |
| - 1 CSEM | 57 | 147 |
| +1 CSEM | 66 | 159 |
| +2 CSEM | 71 | 166 |

ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help

education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis Middle School Science test, the recommended passing score is 61 out of a possible 100 raw-score points. The scale score associated with a raw score of 61 is 152 on a 100–200 scale.

The Advisory Board members engaged in a conversation about the assessment and a passing score. Nancy Welch suggested that the Advisory Board consider setting the passing score at 147 (one CSEM below the multi-state panel’s recommended passing score) for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) test.

**Mr. Garry Carter made a motion to recommend a passing score of 147 (one CSEM below the multi-state panel’s recommended passing score) for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) test. Dr. Peggy Schimmoeller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [Senator McClellan briefly left the meeting and did not vote on this motion.]**

During the discussion, ABTEL indicated its justification for the recommended score is that this is a new test; middle school science is a critical shortage teaching area; and Virginia has not adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for middle school science.

#### Agenda Item 2

**Recommendations for Licensure Renewal Requirements in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel***

Currently, individuals must renew licenses by meeting requirements of the individualized renewal system set forth in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and *The Virginia Renewal Manual.* General Assembly action in 2018 changed the validity period of renewable licenses from five years to ten years.

The following chart shows the number of professional development points required to renew five-year and ten-year licenses.

| **Validity Period of License** | **Number of Professional Development Points to Renew** |
| --- | --- |
| **Five-Year License** | **180** |
| **Ten-Year License** | **270** |

The Board of Education approved the following maximum points for each of the eight options to earn points to renew a ten-year license.

1. College Credit 270 points
2. Professional Conference 60 points
3. Curriculum Development 135 points
4. Publication of Article 135 points
5. Publication of Book 135 points
6. Mentor/Supervision 135 points
7. Educational Project 135 points
8. Professional Development Activities 270 points

# The Advisory Board members have been engaged in discussions to make recommendations to revise the Board of Education renewal requirements. Currently, individuals may renew their licenses by earning points, and they may earn professional development points through any of eight options. Additionally, license holders are required to complete the following mandatory statutory requirements for renewal:

* Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Intervention Training (5 points)
* Emergency First Aid, CPR (including hands-on training) and AED Certification or Training (5 points)
* Dyslexia Awareness Training (5 points)
* **SCHOOL COUNSELORS ONLY:** School Counselor Training in **t**he recognition of mental health disorder and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse. (5 points)
* **LICENSEES ENDORSED TO TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVICS OR ECONOMICS OR HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT OR HISTORY ONLY**: Virginia History or State and Local Government Module (5 points)

During the September 2020 Advisory Board meeting, a draft document was provided to begin discussion about recommendations to revise the renewal requirements. The draft document proposed the following possible topics and professional development points for renewal:

* Diversity, Equity, and Cultural Competence (a minimum of 15 points)
* School Division Professional Development and Learning (a minimum of 15 points if employed by a Virginia school division)
* Social Emotional Learning/Trauma Informed Teaching Strategies/Classroom Management (a minimum of 15 points)
* Data Analysis and Instructional Planning
* Content Knowledge (to add an endorsement or expand knowledge or expertise in teaching assignment)
* Technology Integration and Computer Science
* Instructional and Assessment Practices
* Mandatory Statutory Requirements for Renewal

Additionally, in September 2020, major discussion points for future consideration were as follows:

* + - * + Change the titles of the areas to earn renewal points, such as a consider changing the title of Diversity, Equity, and Cultural Competence to the suggested title of Diversity, Equity, Cultural Responsiveness and Competence/Anti-racist Practice;
        + Include definitions of areas required for renewal;
        + Consider regrouping and/or combining the topics;
        + Discuss further how to address individuals who may be enrolled in a master’s program or taking coursework required for another endorsement (Do they then need to complete additional work to meet renewal requirements in each of the topic areas?);
        + Discuss a timeline for individuals who may have completed renewal requirements;
        + Align renewal and professional development with the Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for teachers; and
        + Align renewal requirements with Board of Education objectives.

Discussion continued during this meeting and included the following suggestions:

* Limit the topics required for renewal; maintain flexibility with the options for selecting professional development categories.
* Require culturally responsive teaching and equitable practices as a requirement for renewal.
* Consider Social Emotional Learning/Trauma Informed Teaching Strategies/Classroom Management as a required area of training for renewal;
* Rename the category of Technology Integration and Computer Science to Digital Learning Integration;
* Consider not mandating a required number of points in the category of school division professional development because not all licensees are employed and those who are can select from activities offered by the employing educational agency;
* Consider that some individuals who are renewing are not employed as educators in public schools;
* Consider microcredentials as a way to earn credits for renewal, but they need to be of high quality.
* Offer useful options for consideration for renewal, but do not mandate points in all categories.
* Avoid a list of mandatory categories that becomes a “check list” and dilutes requirements.
* List certain topical areas under content when providing additional suggested areas of professional development and learning. Separating categories from content (such as data analysis and instructional planning), may remove the emphasis from the area of teaching.
* Remember that license renewal is not only for teachers, but also for other licensed instructional personnel (principals, central office supervisors, etc.).

A small group of Advisory Board members volunteered to meet to review a renewal plan for continued discussion at the February 1, 2021, meeting.

# LIAISON REPORTS

##### Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

EducateVA will complete its fall semester on December 5, and 24 students are poised to become licensed after that date.  The spring semester will begin in January, and the application deadline was November 6.  More than 100 applications have been received.  Students in both the fall and spring cohorts are being instructed in a fully virtual setting.  Also, in January, and again in March, EducateVA will offer its ESOL Workshop series for those licensed teachers seeking training specific to working with English Language Learners and preparation for the Praxis English as a Second Language Subject Assessment.  This training is being offered statewide and funded by a grant.  The January workshop is already at capacity and has a waiting list.

##### State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Funds have been appropriated to SCHEV for the Grow Your Own Program, and the Department of Education will implement the program.

##### Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Mrs. Patty Pitts called the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure members’ attention to the Department of Education website that provides modifications and waivers due to the Covid pandemic. She also thanked Dr. Tricia Stohr-Hunt for her leadership on the Advisory Board.

# ADJOURNMENT

**Nancy Bradley made a motion to adjourn, and Nancy Welsh seconded the motion. The motion passed.**