**Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) Minutes May 2, 2023 Meeting**

The Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) held a general committee meeting in-person on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 1:00-2:30PM at the Department of Aging & Rehabilitation Services building (DARS) in Henrico, VA. Dr. Meg Foley, Virtual Learning Coordinator and Mr. Reginald Fox, Virtual Learning Specialist presided the meeting starting with the welcome and virtual protocols. The disclaimer was provided on the screen that the meeting was held pursuant to the *2021 Appropriation Act language –*[SB7001](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?213+ful+SB7001) and *meeting by electronic means set forth in subsection C of*[*§ 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter37/section2.2-3708.2/)*.* The meeting is being broadcasted through the VDOE YouTube channel.

Participants in attendance represent the following agencies, boards, and community:

Division Superintendents, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), WHRO Public Media, and Virtual Virginia (VVA).

Place check mark beside members attending and given reason for absent members.

Members in attendance are as follows:

* Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
* Dr. Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff VDOE
* Ms. Elizabeth Schultz, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction
* Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM & Innovation
* Dr. Meg Foley, Coordinator of Virtual Learning
* Mr. Reggie Fox, Virtual Learning Specialist
* Dr. Mervin B. Daughtery, Region I, Chesterfield County Schools
* (Mr. Ernest Longworth)
* Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Region II, Hampton City Schools

Dr. James G. Smith, Region III, Richmond County Public Schools

Dr. Kevin Newman, Region IV, Manassas City Public Schools

* Dr. Garett Smith, Region V, Staunton Public Schools
* (Mr. Tom Lundquist)
* Ms. Jeanette Day Warwick, Region VI, Craig County Schools
* Dr. Kevin Siers, Region VII, Pulaski County Public Schools (Mr. Lincoln Whitaker)
* Mr. Robbie W. Mason, Region VIII, Charlotte County Public Schools
* Mr. Rodney Jordan, Virginia School Boards Association
* Ms. Amy Griffin, Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents
* Dr. Mitzi Fehl-Seward, Vice President of Digital Learning, WHRO
* Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director of Virtual VA

Other VDOE participants:

* Ms. Calypso Gilstrap, Instructional Technology Specialist
* Dr. Susan M. Clair, Learning infrastructure Coordinator
* Dr. Susan Clair, K-12 Information Technology Coordinator
* Ms. Cynthia Evans, Support Staff

Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Education was not able to attend. Ms. Elizabeth Schultz, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Education provided opening remarks.

The agenda was presented followed by introductions of participants in attendance. Selected participants made presentations on relative topics, and discussion was held from the group.

Committee Purpose, Role, Term – Dr. Brendon Albon

* Advisory group objectives: online courses, in-service training and digital instructional resources necessary for school divisions to meet graduation requirements.
* Strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia public schools, training, content and digital resources.
* Important role sharing experience, expertise & resources
* Commitment to meet twice annually
* Membership 3-school year term (Fall 2020 – Spring 2023)
* Discussion: Superintendents will have the option of remaining or recommended another superintendent to serve on the committee. Decisions will be made by each member of the committee.

Review & Adoption: Electronic Meetings Policy – Dr. Meg Foley & Mr. Reggie Fox

Legislation for VLAC was presented, and the link was provided to indicate how the VLAC was formed and who serves. The 12 voting members were identified. Excerpts from the Legislation for Virtual Meetings was presented from <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+ful+CHAP0436&141+ful+CHAP0436>.

The Virtual Committee Meetings Policy was presented to include how VLAC will host and conduct meetings, both in-person and virtually. Both documents were printed and provided to the committee members.

A motion was presented: After reading and reviewing the legislation addressing the regulations related to public meetings both in-person and hosted virtually, and discussing the Virtual Board Meetings Policy for the VLAC, members of the committee hereby adopt the policy for hosting meetings.

The motion was made by member Mr. Rodney Jordan, VSBA.

The motion was seconded by member Ms. Amy Griffin, VASS.

The motion was passed to adopt the policy as presented.

Virtual VA Updates – Dr. Brian Mott

* Dr. Mott provided information and updates on the program components: K-12 Instruction, Outreach Program, Professional Learning, and Summer School.
* After the pandemic: K-12 instruction, state-wide LMS used by nearly all divisions, professional learning with multiple partnerships, and summer sessions including credit recovery and K-5 enrichment camps.
* K-12 Instruction: Dr. Mott presented part-time and full-time student enrollment data from 2019-2023, global students.
* Survey Feedback: 90% of students are comfortable using online tools; 92% of parents & students are satisfied with the program; 94% school personnel satisfied with rigor of content, and 94% of school personnel are satisfied with the curriculum alignment.
* Statewide LMS: School divisions are using CANVAS as a platform for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
* Professional Learning: Free training is offered for VA public educators; catalog of offerings is available; microcredentials are emerging. There has been growth with partnerships in the community (examples: VASCD, VHSL, VA College system, driver education).
* Summer Session: K-5 enrichment camps; 6-12 courses with two cohorts.

***Questions: Do we collect demographic data? SCR is the information collected.
Student outcomes: VVA does not compare averages, rather how individual students perform in their own division. Groups performing virtually vs. on-site students.***

Technology Update – Dr. Susan M. Clair

* Dr. Clair provided information about Digital Opportunity Planning for broadband. She presented information from the Virginia’s Statewide Community Action Association. [<https://www.vacap.org/who-we-are/>](https://www.vacap.org/who-we-are/)

Dr. Clair proposed the question, “What is possible with students having access to all of the infrastructure they have access to at this time?”

What impact will broadband have on virtual learning in Virginia?

Instructional Technology Updates – Ms. Calypso Gilstrap

* Go OpenVA: In 2022, 120,000 users with 382,000 visits to access our 22,894 resources; Updated to 2.5; New Hubs- Prop-El, Instructional Playbook, Computer Science; LTI Integration; Achieve Evaluation Rubric and Endorsements
* Digital Learning Integration Standards: 
* SpeakUP Survey: Secondary students feel restricted by the filter, internet connectivity, and access to personal devices. Students want the freedom of personalized learning pathways and think learning on their own is the most important life skills. Students spend the most time on technology with looking up information, remediation, and assessments. Teachers reflected that the internet is inconsistent, and students have laptops that are not charged or damaged.

Teachers like in person, hands on workshops. Teachers observed positive student outcomes when technology has been used effectively to support self directed, self paced learning. Students, Parents, and Administrators all agree that having a job, volunteering, or internship is the best experience for preparing for the future.

* Educational Technology Plan: The current plan, which is housed in the comprehensive plan, expires this year. The Board of Education has approved the timeline for revision. A committee of advisors has been formed including parents, teachers, professors, business owners, exceptional education advocates, executive directors, and other specialist. We have solicited input from the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education. Reflection, Request, and Research Phase

Virtual Learning Updates – Dr. Meg Foley & Mr. Reggie Fox

Dr. Foley and Mr. Fox presented information using the Virtual Learning website HUB including the following topics and excerpts.

* Supporting Virtual Learning: Preparing Students for Success in Virtual Learning; Structuring Virtual Learning Classrooms; Effective Practices for Educators & Students; Virtual Learning Instructional Models
* Planning for Virtual Teaching: Virtual Teaching and Learning Approaches; Instructional Model & Delivery Planning; Modalities for Virtual and Hybrid Teaching; Tips for Teaching & Learning Online; Digital Citizenship for Teachers & Students
* Professional Learning: Virtual Learning Support Toolkit; VDOE Resources; State Resources; National Resources; Virtual Learning Professional Learning Webinar Series; Excerpts from webinars to include Teacher Licensure, Data & reporting, Engaging Learners Online, and National Online Standards for courses, programs and implementation.

Reporting from the Committee:

* There were no reports from the committee.

Public viewing on the VDOE YouTube channel may email questions/comments to the mailbox until May 5, 2023: virtualprograms@doe.virginia.gov.

The participants were given an opportunity to ask final questions prior to the close of the meeting. Next steps will include scheduling the fall meeting of the VLAC. The Fall meeting may be virtual based on the adopted policy voted by the VLAC members today. Ms. Elizabeth Schultz, Dr. Brendon Albon, Dr. Meg Foley, and Mr. Reginald Fox all thanked the committee and guest participants for their participation in this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33PM.