# Agenda Item: H

## Date: September 14, 2023

## Title: Report from the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee

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## Presenter: Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation

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## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only: No action required.

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## Executive Summary:

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) of the Board of Education (Board) met on July 31, 2023.

Dr. Jeremy Raley introduced Dr. Andy Armstrong, the recently hired Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation at VDOE who will be managing the Lab School application process at the VDOE moving forward.

The StandingCommittee next heard a presentation from Nicholas Ramos, Executive Director International Association of Lab Schools (“IALB”). IALB is a lab school membership organization that provides support to its lab school member schools in the United States and the Globe. IALB provides support to lab schools to counsel on what it considers the Five Tenets of lab schools: (1) teacher preparation programs, (2) research, (3) curriculum development, (4) innovation, and (5) professional growth. After the presentation, Mr. Ramos and the Lab School Committee members engaged in a question-and-answer period whereby Mr. Ramos provided advice and insight on successful lab school characteristics, gating ideas to implement in the lab school application evaluation process and further clarified the distinction between lab schools and charter schools.

The Standing Committee also received a legal update from the Office of the Attorney General.

The Standing Committee began First Review of the Laboratory School Application from James Madison University and Rockingham County Public School District (“Applicant”).

Applicant representatives included JMU, Mark L’Esperance, Dean of James Madison School of Education, and Bryan Zugelder, Assistant Professor at JMU Innovation Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Partnerships, and Rockingham County Public School Superintendent, Dr. Larry Schifflett. The Applicant presented an overview of the lab school application. At the conclusion of the Applicant’s presentation, the Standing Committee members posed multiple questions to the Applicants to gather additional detail and insight on the following areas of the JMU Application.

* Intent for compliance waivers on SOL’s
* Implementation of the career exploration/pathways curriculum
* Process for documentation of student’s curriculum pathways throughout the lifecycle of the program
* Staffing and professional development plans, teacher selection and activities of pre-licensure student teachers.
* Administration of lab school curriculum for students with disabilities
* Student selection/lottery process
* Sustainability/funding plan

At the conclusion of the question-and-answer session, the Standing Committee concluded referred JMU to VDOE coaching and technical support, to further refine the Lab School Application.

Jim Chapman provided an update on Planning Grant Expenditures and College Partnership Lab School Application Pipeline, that forecasts when applicants may submit an application for a Lab School.

The Standing Committee also delegated to the VDOE staff to further refine the Lab School Application to include information garnered from recent application experiences and insights shared by the IALB/Nicholas Ramos’ presentation, and additional changes to FERPA and sustainability questions. Lastly, the Cmte requested a plan from VDOE staff to have an intentional method to share lessons learned from the Lab Schools with VDOE, the State Board, SCHEV and other interested parties (based on the feedback provided from Mr. Ramos).

## Action Requested:

The Standing Committee referred the JMU Applicants back for further refinement of the content in the Application at a future meeting of the Standing Committee.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

No previous review or action.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**

Subsection A of § [22.1-349.6](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter19.1/section22.1-349.6/) of the Code of Virginia states, in part, that “[t]he Board shall establish procedures for receiving, reviewing, and ruling upon applications and shall make a copy of any such procedures available to all interested parties upon request. . . . The Board’s review procedures shall establish a review committee that may include experts with the operation of similar schools located in other states.”