

DRAFT MINUTES
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
December 12, 2023

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a special meeting on December 12, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mrs. Grace Creasey, President
Mrs. Mashea Ashton (absent)
Mr. Andy Rotherham (remote)
Mr. Dale Sturdifan
Mrs. Debbie Kilgore

Mr. Bill Hansen, Vice President (absent)
Ms. Anne Holton
Dr. Amber Northern
Dr. Alan Seibert (remote)
Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Creasey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Creasey also noted that she approved Dr. Seibert and Mr. Rotherham’s remote participation under the Board’s Bylaws and § [2.2-3708.3\(B\)\(3\)](#) of the Code of Virginia because their principal residences are more than 60 miles from the meeting location.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Creasey asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Creasey asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Sturdifan motioned to approve the amended agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Creasey asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2023, as presented. Mr. Sturdifan motioned to approve the amended agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jenna Alexander of the Virginia PTA spoke regarding the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality.
- Jeremy R. Bennett of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), spoke regarding the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality.
- Scott Brabrand of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, spoke regarding the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality Prescriptions.
- J.T. Kessler, Director of Legislator Services of the Virginia School Board Association, spoke regarding the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Final Review to Certify a List of Qualified Persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools

The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

President Creasey asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Final Review of Board of Education 2023 Annual Report

Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

President Creasey asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Report and delegate authority for any final edits to the Board President and the Superintendent. Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the Board of Education 2023 Annual Report. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

C. Final Review of Board of Education Comprehensive Plan

The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

President Creasey asked for a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan as presented and delegate authority for any final edits to the Board President and the Superintendent. Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

D. Final Review of Board of Education 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality

The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#). The prescriptions of the Board of Education 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality were voted on individually as follows:

Dr. Northern made a motion to approve Prescription A of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to approve Prescription B of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried by a majority with the following votes:

Mrs. Kilgore: Aye
Ms. Holton: Nay
Dr. Seibert: Aye
Ms. Creasey: Aye
Dr. Northern: Aye
Mr. Sturdifen: Aye
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

Dr. Seibert made a motion to approve Prescription C of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as amended to include Recommendation 2. The motion was properly seconded and carried by a majority with the following votes:

Mrs. Kilgore: Aye
Ms. Holton: Nay
Dr. Seibert: Aye
Ms. Creasey: Aye
Dr. Northern: Abstain
Mr. Sturdifen: Aye
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

Dr. Seibert made a motion to approve Prescription D of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as amended, removing "this system should launch for the 2024–2025 school year." The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to approve Prescription E of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to approve Prescription F of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as amended, removing “this system should launch for the 2024–2025 school year.” The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Holton made a motion to approve Prescription G of the 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality as amended to include Recommendation 1 and to remove the cost estimate. The motion was properly seconded and carried by a majority with the following votes:

Mrs. Kilgore: Aye

Ms. Holton: Aye

Dr. Seibert: Aye

Ms. Creasey: Nay

Dr. Northern: Aye

Mr. Sturdifen: Nay

Mr. Rotherham: Aye

E. Presentation on Combating Chronic Absenteeism

Mr. Straley, Superintendent of Louisa County Public Schools, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

F. First Review of Regular Review of Board of Education Guidance Documents

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board accepted this item for first review.

G. First and Final Review of Regular Review of Board of Education Regulatory Actions

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and withdraw actions 5749 and 5943, as well as withdraw the Final Stage of action 5348. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

H. First and Final Review of Schedule for the Periodic Review of Regulations

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and approve opening periodic reviews on the regulatory chapters identified in this item in the first six months of 2024. The motion was properly seconded and carried with the following votes:

Mrs. Kilgore: Aye
Ms. Holton: Nay
Dr. Seibert: Aye
Ms. Creasey: Aye
Dr. Northern: Aye
Mr. Sturdifen: Aye
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

I. First and Final Review of Board of Education Advisory Committee All-Virtual Public Meeting Policy

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to waive first review and approve the Board of Education Advisory Committee All-Virtual Public Meeting Policy. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

J. First and Final Review of Proposed Guidelines for Instruction on Problem Gambling and the Addictive Potential Thereof

Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and approve the Guidelines for Instruction on Problem Gambling and the Addictive Potential Thereof. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously, with Ms. Holton abstaining.

K. First and Final Review of Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs

Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to waive first review and approve ABTEL's recommendation regarding New Education (Endorsement) Programs. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

L. First and Final Review of Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation for a Passing Score for the Praxis® Earth and Space Sciences (5572) Test for the Science-Earth Science Endorsement

Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifan made a motion to approve the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation for a Passing Score of 154 for the Praxis® Earth and Space Sciences (5572) Test for the Science-Earth Science Endorsement. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

M. First Review of Virginia Literacy Act District Literacy Plan Template

Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board of Education received the item for first review.

N. Final Review of Updated Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide K-5

Anne Etten, Education and Outreach Manager for Virginia Literacy Partnerships at the University of Virginia, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Ms. Holton made a motion to approve the Updated Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide K-5 to comply with VLA and direct the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create an appeals process, by which local school divisions currently using curriculum that they believe successful, to come to the Superintendent and the Board for that approval. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Rotherham abstained.

O. First Review of Recommendation to Establish an Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning

Elizabeth L. Schultz, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board of Education received the item for first review.

PRESENTATIONS/WRITTEN REPORTS

P. Report on Direct Aid Re-Benchmarking for the 2024-2026 Biennium

Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Dr. Coons thanked the Board members for their participation in the Listening Sessions. Dr. Coons also recognized VDOE staff for their tireless work to bring the best information and data work to the Board. Ms. Holton requested a new Staff Directory and organizational chart for the VDOE and a listing of current vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Creasey adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Mrs. Grace Turner Creasey, M.Ed.
President, Virginia Board of Education