**College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee Meeting**

**Draft Minutes**

Monday, May 6, 2024

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) met at Old City Hall (1001 E. Broad Street #115, Richmond, Virginia 23219).

**Committee Members**

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| Ms. Joan Wodiska, Chair | Dr. Pam Moran, Vice Chair |
| Mr. John Bailey - virtual | Mr. Bill Hansen |
| Mr. Andy Rotherham |  |

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Joan Wodiska, called the meeting to order. Mr. John Bailey participated in the meeting remotely with the permission of the Chair, Ms. Wodiska.

***APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA***

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to approve the amended Agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Moran made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***UPDATES FROM APRIL VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FROM STATE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT***

Mr. Bill Hansen presented the recently approved names of the lab schools that were presented to the Virginia Board of Education at their April meeting including Emory and Henry College, George Mason University, Roanoke College, Paul D. Camp Community College, Old Dominion University – Newport News, and Old Dominion University – Chesapeake. The Board also complimented the Lab School Standing Committee and VDOE staff for the quality of the work provided to the Board including complete and compliant Lab School applications from each of the Institutes of Higher Learning.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

There were no sign-ups for public comment prior to the meeting.

***ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

***A. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Richard Bland***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item to the Standing Committee.The material for this item can be found on [the College Partnership Laboratory School’s page on the VDOE website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/data-policy-funding/virginia-board-of-education/board-committee-meetings/college-partnership-laboratory-schools-committee).

The concept of a lab school designed collaboratively with local school divisions is to help meet the growing industry need for STEM expertise and expand access to high quality STEAM education and careers for traditionally underrepresented urban and rural students. Richard Bland College is an innovative and desirable laboratory school program. With the students remaining enrolled in their local school divisions, it appears RBC Globe Academy functions more as a program than a standalone Lab School. The Applicants responded very well to initial feedback and coaching provided by the VDOE SME team, and provided the additional information requested. Richard Bland College has options for students including dual enrollment options with a sustainable governance structure, including a sustainable financial model for the operation of the lab school program.

Dr. Moran made a motion to recommend and refer the application for the Richard Bland College lab school to the Virginia Board of Education. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***B. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University – Suffolk***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item to the Standing Committee.The material for this item can be found on [the College Partnership Laboratory School’s page on the VDOE website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/data-policy-funding/virginia-board-of-education/board-committee-meetings/college-partnership-laboratory-schools-committee).

The concept of a lab school designed collaboratively with local school divisions to

incorporate hands-on STEM experiences into the elementary curriculum to enhance students’ academic proficiency, promote the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills to foster a deeper understanding of core subjects, prepare students for real-world challenges, provide a rich environment for the utilization of innovative teaching methods, curriculum development, and educational theories in a practical, hands-on setting, and address the needs of at-risk students by emphasizing the importance of STEM exposure by Old Dominion University is an innovative and desirable laboratory school program. With the students remaining enrolled in their local school divisions, it appears ODU STEM Academy functions more as a program than a standalone Lab School. This is an acceptable approach to meeting the intent of the lab school concept. The Applicants have options for students including dual enrollment options with a sustainable governance structure, including a sustainable financial model for the operation of the lab school program.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to recommend and refer the application for the Old Dominion University-Suffolk lab school to the Virginia Board of Education. The motion was properly seconded and carried by majority, with Mr. Rotherham abstaining.

***~~C. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Ferrum College~~***

Item C was removed from the agenda.

***D. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from George Mason University – Frederick***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item to the Standing Committee.The material for this item can be found on [the College Partnership Laboratory School’s page on the VDOE website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/data-policy-funding/virginia-board-of-education/board-committee-meetings/college-partnership-laboratory-schools-committee).

The concept of a lab school designed collaboratively with local school divisions with a strong emphasis on advancing data science, computing and applications across the Shenandoah

Valley and the Commonwealth for students and teachers through innovative research,

education and community engagement through project-based learning and hands-on approaches to cultivate computational thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking abilities, and other essential skills crucial for success in computer science coursework by George Mason University is an innovative and desirable laboratory school program.

The Laboratory School Application for GMU’s DCSA is a collaboration between George Mason University and the school divisions of Clarke County, Fauquier County, Frederick County, Page County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, and Winchester City, the Mountain Vista Governor’s School and Laurel Ridge Community College. With the students remaining enrolled in their local school divisions, it appears GMU DCSA functions more as a program than a standalone Lab School. This is an acceptable approach to meeting the intent of the lab school concept.

Dr. Moran made a motion to recommend and refer the application for the George Mason University-Frederick lab school to the Virginia Board of Education. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES***

Dr. Moran made a motion to cancel the July 2024 Lab School Committee meeting. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS***

There were no sign ups for public comment prior to the meeting.

***ADJOURNMENT***