

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Committee on School and Division Accountability
September 25, 2013
2:45 P.M.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

Mrs. Diane Atkinson, chairman of the Committee on School and Division Accountability, convened the meeting with the following Board members present: Dr. Oktay Baysal, Betsy Beamer, Christian Braunlich, Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr., Darla Edwards, and David Foster. Dr. Patricia Wright, superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

Mrs. Atkinson welcomed the Board members and guests in the audience and she then outlined today's agenda items:

- A proposal to place Franklin City Public Schools under division-level review status.
- A request for a continued rating of conditionally accredited from the Northampton County School Board for Kiptopeke Elementary School.
- The proposed A-F school grading formula developed in response to the 2013 Acts of Assembly.
- A Report on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 Waiver Renewal Process and Requirements.

Public Comment

Mrs. Atkinson then went into public comment. Only one person, Nicole Dooley of Just Children, spoke during public comment, and she provided comments on the A-F grading formula. On behalf of her organization, she reported that they appreciated the inclusion of measures of proficiency, student growth, and college and career readiness, as well as the recognition for schools that move students beyond basic proficiency. They especially appreciated the attention given to at risk students in order to ensure that schools not lose focus on bringing all students forward. Again, she said they would like to ask that the Board include student attendance as well as school disciplinary referrals in the grading formula by expanding the definition of "at risk."

Once Ms. Dooley completed her comments, Mrs. Atkinson asked if there was anyone else in the audience who wanted to provide public comment. Because no one responded, she moved on the next agenda item.

Proposal to Place Franklin City Public Schools under Division-Level Review Status

For this presentation, Dr. Kathleen Smith, director of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of School Improvement, represented the VDOE. Dr. Michelle Belle, superintendent of the Franklin City Public Schools (FCPS), and Edna King,

chairperson of the FCPS school board, represented FCPS. The Standards of Quality (SOQ) require local school boards to maintain *Fully Accredited* schools and to take corrective action for schools that do not meet that standard. When the Board determines through the academic review that the failure of schools within a division to achieve full accreditation status is related to division level failure to implement the SOQ, the Board may require a division-level academic review. All schools in FCPS have been *Accredited with Warning* for two consecutive years and have federal sanctions due to not meeting the federal annual measurable objectives. This agenda item will be before the Board for first review at tomorrow's meeting and is expected to come before the Board for final review on October 24, 2103. Click on [Proposal to Place Franklin City Public Schools under Division-Level Review Status](#) to read the Board materials related to this agenda item.

Request for a Continued Rating of Conditionally Accredited from the Northampton County School Board for Kiptopeke Elementary School

For this presentation, Dr. Kathleen Smith, director of the VDOE Office of School Improvement, represented the VDOE, and Dr. Walter R. Clemons, superintendent of the Northampton Public Schools, represented that school division. 8 VAC 20-131-300.C of the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* states that a school shall be rated *Accreditation Denied* based on its academic performance and its failure to achieve the minimum threshold for the graduation and completion index required to be rated *Fully Accredited* or *Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate*, for the preceding three consecutive years or for three consecutive years anytime thereafter. Kiptopeke Elementary School was granted the rating of *Conditionally Accredited* in 2011 and 2012 based on the school's reconstitution efforts and implementation of the USED Transformation Model. The school division has requested a continued rating of *Conditionally Accredited* in 2013. This agenda item will be before the Board for first review at tomorrow's meeting and is expected to come before the Board for final review on October 24, 2103. Click on [Request for a Continued Rating of Conditionally Accredited from Northampton County School Board for Kiptopeke Elementary School](#) to read the Board materials related to this agenda item.

Proposed A-F School Grading Formula Developed in Response to the 2013 Acts of Assembly

Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, assistant superintendent for the division of student assessment and school improvement, presented this agenda item. The 2013 Acts of Assembly require the Board to develop an A-F school grading system. By October 1, 2014, the Board must make both the grading system and individual school grades available to the public and provide a summary report to the General Assembly. The Virginia School Grading System will assign a letter grade, A-F, to Virginia public schools that are part of the state accreditation system. This agenda item will be before the Board for first review at tomorrow's meeting and is expected to come before the Board for final review on October 24, 2103. Click on [Presentation on Proposed A-F School Grading Formula](#) to read the Board materials related to this agenda item.

Report on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 Waiver Renewal Process and Requirements

Dr. Linda Wallinger, assistant superintendent for instruction, provided this report. She stated that Virginia has been operating on a waiver for the last two years from the United States Department of Education (USED) and from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). That waiver comes to an end at the end of this school year even though it was just approved in March of this year. USED has invited certain states to submit applications for a renewal of the waiver and an executive summary will be presented at the October Accountability Committee meeting. Staff are in the process of preparing these materials and the waiver request will be up for first review at the November Board meeting and for final review at the January meeting.

Click on [Report on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 \(ESEA\) Waiver Renewal Process and Requirements](#) to read the Board materials related to this agenda item.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.