



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 11, 2022

TO: Virginia State Board of Education President Gecker and Members

FROM: State Superintendent Jillian Balow

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Update

It is such a pleasure to welcome five new board members to the Virginia Board of Education. In a news release on June 30, Governor Youngkin said, "I'm delighted to appoint this group of proven leaders in their respective fields to help ensure every student has a best-in-class education. I have tasked these innovators to bring their expertise as parents, industry leaders, educators, and policymakers to ensure our classrooms and our campuses prepare students for success in life. This includes providing equal access to educational opportunities regardless of background or zip code, protecting and promoting free speech, restoring the ability to have civil discourse, keeping tuition affordable, and ensuring that all Virginians have access to in-demand career pathways. Together, we will make Virginia the best place to learn across a lifetime."

Indeed, there is good work ahead in Virginia education! Adding to the expertise and experience that exists, the five new board members bring skill sets that include state and national leadership, data expertise, STEM education leadership, creating school choice within public schools, and much more.

During this meeting Secretary Guidera and Deputy Secretary Snow will present a vision to unleash innovation in our public schools through the creation of lab schools. The final budget from the 2022 Virginia General Assembly included \$100 million for the effort and the state board is instrumental in shepherding the work from incubation to maturity.

In the coming months, VDOE staff will present our major initiatives to the board. For now, I look forward to seeing you all next week at our meeting!