**Virtual Learning Advisory Committee Minutes Thursday, September 24, 2020**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

The Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) held a general committee meeting was held as a virtual Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2020 from 9:00-10:30AM. Dr. Meg Foley, Virtual Learning Coordinator and Mr. Reginald Fox, Virtual Learning Specialist presided the meeting starting with the welcome and virtual protocols. The disclaimer was provided on the screen that the meeting was held pursuant to the *2021 Appropriation Act language –*[SB7001](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?213+ful+SB7001) and *meeting by electronic means set forth in subsection C of*[*§ 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter37/section2.2-3708.2/)*.*

Participants in attendance represent the following agencies, boards, and community:

Virginia Board of Education, Division Superintendents, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), WHRO Public Media, Virtual Virginia (VVA), and Virtual Education Regulations Workgroup.

Opening Remarks were given by Dr. James Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, VDOE

The agenda was presented followed by introductions of participants in attendance. Selected participants made presentations on relative topics, and discussion was held from the group.

Committee Purpose, Role, Term – Mr. Michael Bolling

* Advisory group: online courses, in-service training and digital instructional resources necessary for school divisions to meet graduation requirements.
* Strategic planning to expand blended and online learning opportunities in Virginia public schools, training, content and digital resources.
* Important role sharing experience, expertise & resources
* Commitment to meet twice annually

Virtual VA (VVA) Program Evaluation Report – Dr. Jen Piver-Renna

Dr. Piver-Renna provided the results from a survey of Virtual VA. A complete report is on file with VDOE, and listed is a synopsis of main ideas.

In partnership with the Virtual Virginia program, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) administers feedback surveys each year to students participating in Virtual Virginia courses, parents or guardians of enrolled students, and staff supporting the program at participating schools. Surveys are administered through a web link available in Virtual Virginia’s learning management system at the completion of each semester. Compared to previous years, VDOE received fewer responses to the surveys during 2019-2020 due to statewide school closures beginning March 2020. The summary results presented in this report reflect 926 responses from students, 824 responses from parents/guardians, and 398 response from staff at 112 school divisions. Why do students take virtual courses? Are students prepared to take virtual courses? Would students take another Virtual Virginia course?

Virtual VA (VVA) Updates – Dr. Brian Mott

Dr. Brian Mott provided a Program Overview and Updates with the various Virtual VA programs to include student enrollment in full-time and part-time courses during the school year, summer courses, and professional development offerings by staff. He also gave an outlook and forecast of future enrollments and programs that Virtual VA plans to offer.

Virtual Learning Overview – Mr. Michael Bolling

Mr. Bolling provide VDOE Updates and an overview of how Virtual Learning can be supported in Virginia. He showed several supporting documents that have been developed and shared with school divisions, as well as posted on the VDOE website. He also discussed grant funding and opportunities for professional development offerings from VDOE.

Virtual Learning Updates & New HUB – Dr. Meg Foley & Mr. Reggie Fox

Dr. Foley and Mr. Fox demonstrated the new Virtual Learning HUB which provides support for online learning through Supporting Virtual Learning, Planning for Virtual Learning, and Professional Learning. They continued with an overview and updates of new Multidivision Online Providers and additional courses offered by existing approved MOP.

Technology Updates & Grants – Dr. Susan Clair

Dr. Clair gave information about the current status of technology infrastructure in Virginia and how the grants have provided funding for schools to purchase necessary equipment especially during COVID.

GoOpenVA: Supporting Hybrid & Virtual Learning – Ms. Jean Weller

Mrs. Weller gave a presentation and showed the GoOpenVA website providing an overview of features and how teachers may submit additional instructional materials. She emphasized how school divisions were using materials to support hybrid and virtual learning during COVID.

Break-out Discussion:

The VLAC members and VDOE staff provided time for a break-out discussion including the two questions listed. Members of the committee gave insight on their experiences during COVID and how blended, hybrid and virtual learning have played a significant role in providing an avenue for continued education of students. The additional support requested is professional development and resources that will help educators enhance their instructional practices and strategies online.

*What advice would you give with your blended, hybrid and virtual learning based on your experiences opening the school year?*

*What additional technologies and instructional support would you need to continue blended and virtual learning?*

Questions & Next Steps – Mr. Michael Bolling

Establish next meeting date

The participants were given an opportunity to ask final questions prior to the close of the meeting. Next steps will include scheduling the spring meeting of the VLAC. Mr. Michael Bolling, Dr. Meg Foley, and Mr. Reginald Fox all thanked the committee and guest participants for their participation in this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.