

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**March 22 and 23, 2023**

The Board of Education (Board) convened its business meeting on March 23, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Dan Gecker, President	Dr. Tammy Mann, Vice President
Ms. Grace Creasey	Mr. Andy Rotherham
Mr. Dale Sturdifen	Dr. Alan Seibert
Ms. Anne Holton	Mr. Bill Hansen
Dr. Pamela Davis-Vought (attended by remote participation)	Ms. Kay Cole James, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Mr. Gecker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Gecker noted that he approved Dr. Davis-Vaught's participation from Bristol, Virginia, via electronic means due to medical reasons.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Holton made a motion to adopt the February 2, 2023, meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Kandise Lucas expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Melissa Siddiqi expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Wendy Little expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Kathy Halvorson expressed concerns regarding special education.
- Tammy Seay expressed concerns regarding special education in Powhatan County.
- Scott Brabrand
- Wendy Shenk-Evans spoke in support of the Montessori licensure agenda item.

- Catharina Genove spoke in support of the Montessori licensure agenda item.
- Monique O'Grady spoke in support of the Montessori licensure agenda item.
- Dr. Corey Borgman spoke in support of the Montessori licensure agenda item.
- Jonathan Hui spoke in support of the Montessori licensure agenda item.
- Sarah Cruz spoke regarding content knowledge for literacy success and initial implementation of CKLA in Arlington Public Schools.
- Stephanie Dinnen expressed the importance of knowledge-grounded literacy curriculum for elementary students.
- Madison Hawkins spoke in support of accepting AP African American Studies for graduation credit.
- Tammy Seay expressed concern regarding special education in Powhatan County.
- Erik Elzinga spoke about the proposed revisions to the History and Social Science Standards of Learning.
- Bruce Richardson, Sr. expressed concerns regarding proposed changes in K-12 curriculum standards.
- Chad Stewart spoke regarding proposed changes to the accreditation system.
- Chris Jones spoke regarding proposed changes to the accountability system.
- Anne Taydus expressed concerns regarding standards.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, submitted 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. Creasey made a motion to approve the list of qualified persons for the Office of Division Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham. This motion was carried unanimously.

### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ***B. Final Review of Arlington County Public Schools Alternate Route to Licensure for Certain Endorsements Pursuant to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly***

Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, and Dr. Joan Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Pursuant to the [\*Guidelines for Alternate Routes to Licensure in Response to House Bill 2486 of the 2019 Virginia General Assembly \(Guidelines\)\*](#) Arlington County Public Schools (ACPS) submitted an application for an alternate route to licensure for their division. ACPS has hosted a [public Montessori program](#) for 50 years. The program provides Montessori instruction for students from pre-K through eighth grade.

Per the *Guidelines*, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) formed a panel of educational leaders to review ACPS's application to determine if all competencies of an educator preparation program were met. After careful review and thoughtful discussion, the panel requested additional information to support and strengthen the application. This initiative supports the Board's Comprehensive Plan to advance policies that increase the number of candidates entering the teaching profession and encourage and support the recruitment, development, and retention of well prepared and skilled teachers.

### **Closed Session**

Ms. Creasey made a motion to enter a Closed Session in accordance with §§ 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsection, the following item:

Subsection 8: Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

And that Deb Love and Abigail Gump, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, as well as staff members Kim Richey, Melissa Velasquez, and Jim Chapman, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 8:40 a.m. Ms. Creasey made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 9:15 a.m.

President Gecker made a motion that the Board certify by roll-call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under Chapter 32 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker-aye
- Mr. Rotherham-aye
- Mr. Sturdifen-aye
- Mr. Hansen-aye
- Dr. Seibert-aye
- Mrs. Creasey-aye

- Ms. Holton-aye
- Dr. Mann-aye

Ms. Holton clarified that this application has not gone through ABTEL. Dr. Johnson confirmed that this application has not gone through ABTEL and it is not required. Mr. Rotherham requested that the DOE provide annual data regarding teachers who are leaving the profession.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board approve the recommendation of the department's panel regarding ACPS' petition for an alternate route to licensure.

Ms. Holton made a motion to grant the application request from Arlington County with the panel's recommendations, except that we require only the VLA Literacy Course and not the methods courses, in addition, it will be time-limited to three years and that data be collected regarding teacher retention and evaluation data in Arlington; however, the applicants will not be restricted to only teaching in Arlington. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority with Mr. Hansen voting against the motion.

Ms. Holton requested that we explore sending future requests through ABTEL.

### ***C. First and Final Review of Request from Buena Vista City Public Schools to Discontinue a Local Graduation Requirement***

Jim Chapman, Regulatory and Legal Coordinator, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

BVCPS requested that the Board approve BVCPS discontinuing this local graduation requirement beginning with the 2023–2024 school year. Over the four years that the local graduation requirement has been in place, BVCPS have found that not all students have an interest in IT Fundamentals and feel that they are being forced to take the course. In 2019–2020, the student failure rate for the IT Fundamentals course was 22 percent. In 2020–2021, the failure rate was 27.5 percent. In 2021–2022, the failure rate was 14 percent. Through the first semester of the current year, the failure rate is 28 percent. By contrast, data from the CTE Annual Performance Report indicates a 97 percent pass rate.

Further, BVCPS has found that requiring all students to take IT Fundamentals in 9<sup>th</sup> grade is negatively impacting enrollment in other business and information technology courses. Additionally, BVCPS has found that by having IT Fundamentals as a local graduation requirement, the course cannot be counted as a completer course toward the Business and Information Technology pathway. Students are then at a disadvantage to schedule and complete two different sequences.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the request from BVCPS to discontinue the local graduation requirement.

The Board did not have any questions or discussion on this agenda item.

Dr. Mann made a motion to waive first review and approve the request from BVCPS to discontinue the local graduation requirement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturdifen. This motion was carried unanimously.

***D. First Review of Alternative Accreditation Plans for 2023-2024 Accountability Year***

Amy Siepka, Director of the Office of Accountability, Dr. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Eleven special purpose schools in Virginia are requesting approval of alternative accreditation plans from the Virginia Board of Education (Board) for the 2023-2024 accountability year (based on 2022-2023 school year data). The schools submitting applications are:

- Arlington County Public Schools: Arlington Community High School.
- Chesterfield County Public Schools: Carver College and Career Academy;
- Danville County Public Schools: R.I.S.E. Academy;
- Fairfax County Public Schools: Kilmer Center School, Fairfax County Adult High School, Key Center School, Mountain View High School, and Bryant High School; and
- Loudoun County Public Schools: William Obediah Robey High School.
- Richmond City Public Schools: Amelia Street School, and Richmond Alternative School

Such schools are allowed to request this flexibility under [8VAC20-131-420 D](#) of the [Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#) (SOA).

The plans adhere to new guidelines that were created by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in 2022 to align with the 2017 SOA. The guidelines allow flexibilities when determining an accreditation status for these special purpose schools, while still maintaining an alignment to the state's accreditation model.

Alternative accreditation plan submission, approval, and implementation includes communication between VDOE staff and school leaders regarding the process, timeline, and established guidelines; individualized assistance to answer school-specific questions; a review of the applications by a multi-office VDOE working committee for alignment to the guidelines; a presentation of the proposed plans to the Board for review and approval; verification of the accuracy of alternative calculations that are used for accreditation, and verification that the assigned accreditation status of the school is accurate, based on the state measures and/or alternative measures.

Because the Board may be acting on items related to the current accreditation model as it is implemented for the 2023-2024 accountability year, VDOE has an additional request as it works with school divisions to implement Board approved alternative accreditation plans. Should any Board actions taken throughout the remainder of 2023 impact the accreditation model for the 2023-2024 accreditation year, VDOE requests that the Board allow staff to exercise professional

judgment and permit related flexibilities in the approved alternative accreditation plans as appropriate.

There were no questions or comments about this agenda item.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board receive for first review the applications for alternative accreditation plans from eleven special purpose schools. The Board accepted the item for first review.

***E. First Review of Adoption of Special Provision to Suspend the Use of the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator for the Determination of Accreditation Status for Accreditation Year 2023-2024***

Amy Siepka, Director of the Office of Accountability, Dr. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Chronic absenteeism is one of nine indicators in Virginia's School Accreditation Model. Based in part on the relationship between school attendance and student achievement, chronic absenteeism was selected as a measure of student engagement in the 2017 revision to the [Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia](#) (SOA). Chronically absent students are defined as those who are absent 10% or more of their enrolled school days, typically 18 or more days. The performance level a school earns on the chronic absenteeism indicator is used in conjunction with the performance levels of the other indicators to determine a school's accreditation status.

Due to the lingering impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic, school division leaders continue to report increased absences despite the programs and procedures put in place to address chronic absenteeism. During the 2022-2023 school year, absences were exacerbated by contagious illnesses that were endemic during the same time period: COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and the flu. Because of the continued number of absences that school division leaders are reporting due to illness, the Board is again being asked to consider the adoption of special provisions ([8VAC20-131-380](#) F 3) to suspend the chronic absenteeism indicator from the determination of school accreditation status for accreditation year 2023-2024 (based on 2022-2023 school year data). In doing so, the earned performance level and chronic absenteeism rate will still be assigned to and reported for schools based on the current year's performance only.

Mr. Hansen requested to see data to determine whether there is a direct correlation of the 25% of SOL learning loss in those student populations that are the most vulnerable. He also requested a summary of how the COVID ESSER funds have been spent so we can understand how districts have been using these funds and to have an understanding of what is left to be spent and what the plans are on the district and state level in using the remainder of these funds.

Dr. Mann and Dr. Davis-Vought, as well as Mr. Gecker, reiterated Mr. Hansen’s sentiments and added that we also need to investigate what the underlying causes are of the learning loss and how they relate to outcomes. Mr. Rotherham added that the Board needs to ensure specificity regarding expectations and levels of support. Mr. Gecker noted that the Board needed to determine what the accreditation system should look like, what should be incentivized, how it would work, and how the Board would improve outcomes. The Board agreed that though there may be differing viewpoints among the members, it is committed to creating a system that accomplishes the goals that will benefit students throughout the state.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education accept for first review the proposal to adopt special provisions for accreditation year 2023-2024 to temporarily suspend the use of the chronic absenteeism indicator for the determination of accreditation status. The Board accepted this item for first review.

***F. First Review of Proposal to Approve Only a Year-To-Year Comparison of State Assessment Results to Determine Growth for Accountability Year 2023-2024***

Amy Siepka, Director of the Office of Accountability, Dr. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA Programs, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

For the following reasons, VDOE is requesting the Board’s approval to use only a year-to-year comparison of state assessment results (previous spring test results to current spring test results) for grades 4-8 students within the growth determination methodology, and a comparison of fall growth assessment results to current spring SOL test results for grade 3 students.

- The administration of “through-year” growth assessments, which focus primarily on content students are being taught in the current year, occurred for the first time in the 2022-2023 school year. Accordingly, there is no longitudinal data to guide decisions regarding how much within-year growth a student would need to make on a particular test to demonstrate sufficient progress.
- Measurement of student growth in grades 3-8 reading and mathematics is part of Virginia’s federal accountability plan under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).
- Maintain consistency across the state and federal accountability models, VDOE recommends that the methodology for determining growth be the same in both models.
- Students who participate in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) are also included in the growth calculations. This population of students does not take fall or winter growth assessments. The determination of growth for these students must be based on a year-to-year comparison (previous spring VAAP testing results to current spring VAAP testing results).

Ms. Holton asked for clarification regarding whether the law that was passed, which requires the fall and mid-year assessments, requires it to be used for accountability. Ms. Siepka stated that these assessments are not required to be used for accountability. Ms. Holton then asked if the assessment irrelevant since it is not used for accountability. Dr. Loving-Ryder responded that

though these assessments are not required to be used for accountability, they do provide actionable information for parents and teachers in a timely fashion.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept the First Review of the Request to Approve the Proposed Growth Methodology Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and until sufficient data is available to support a different methodology. The Board accepted this agenda item for first review.

### ***G. First Review of Updates to the Board Approved Courses***

Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of the Office of STEM & Innovation, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) annually proposes updates to the [Board of Education Approved Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements for the Standard, Advanced Studies, and Modified Standard Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools \(Board Approved Courses\)](#) document. The proposed changes include the following:

- adding two courses that satisfy graduation requirements, AP Pre-Calculus and AP Seminar for English
- updating School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) codes used to identify courses in which students are enrolled.
- reordering courses within each content area by SCED code.
- clarifying and updating language regarding state/federal testing and state graduation requirements.
- deleting unnecessary or outdated content; and
- improving accuracy, readability, and formatting.

The proposed updates are necessary to ensure appropriate notation of course enrollments in the Master Schedule Collection (MSC) by school divisions and that appropriate credits are used to satisfy graduation requirements, as well as to clarify answers to common questions.

This item aligns with Priority 1 of the [Virginia Board of Education Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023](#) to ensure a high-quality learning environment for all students.

Mr. Hansen asked whether there have been any substantive changes. Dr. Albon responded that they have only added the AP seminar for English 10 and AP pre-calculus, which are new courses offered by College Board and are being made available to students as part of their regular course offerings.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the proposed updates to the [Board Approved Courses](#) for first review. The Board accepted this item for first review.

***H. First Review of Recommendation to Approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs***

Dr. Joan B. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

The Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia ([8VAC20-543](#)) require that the Board approve requests from Virginia institutions of higher education to add new endorsement programs. Requests for new programs must be submitted annually by March 31.

Board regulation [8VAC20-543-30](#) requires institutions seeking education program approval to establish partnerships and collaborations based on PreK-12 school needs. All institutions of higher education provided a copy of the Virginia Department of Education – Standards for Biennial Approval of Education Programs Accountability Measurement of Partnerships and Collaborations Based on PreK-12 School Needs Education Programs form for the requested program endorsement area.

During meetings on January 9, 2023, and February 6, 2023, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) recommended that the Board grant approval for the new endorsement programs. The following is a list of the institutions of higher education and the new endorsements requested.

<b>College/University</b>	<b>Education Endorsement Program</b>	<b>Program Level</b>
<b>Averett University</b>	Early/Primary Education PreK-3	Undergraduate
<b>Hollins University</b>	Elementary Education PreK-6	Undergraduate
<b>Mary Baldwin University</b>	Elementary Education PreK-6	Undergraduate
<b>Randolph College</b>	Science-Biology	Graduate

The Board did not have any questions or comments on this agenda item.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board accept for first review ABTEL's recommendation to approve New Education (Endorsement) Programs. The Board accepted this item for first review.

**PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS**

***I. Update on College Partnership Laboratory Schools***

Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of the Office of STEM & Innovation, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (Standing Committee) of the Board of Education (Board) met on March 8, 2023. The Standing Committee unanimously elected Ms. Joan Wodiska as Chair and Dr. Pam Moran as Vice-Chair. The Standing Committee extends its thanks to Ms. Wodiska and Dr. Moran for their willingness to serve the Board, as well as their leadership and commitment to ensuring high-quality college partnership laboratory schools (lab schools) in Virginia.

The Standing Committee accepted an initial schedule for its meetings, which is organized around when lab school applications can be discussed and referred to the Board for consideration. In addition to the schedule, the Standing Committee considered a flowchart of a lab school application life cycle.

The Standing Committee requested that the Board consider an expedited review process—where the Board waives first review—when an application is so recommended by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee also requests that the Board consider, in conjunction with the Governor and the Secretary of Education, the creation of three professional learning communities (PLCs). The first PLC would help with planning grants. The second PLC would provide internal and external technical assistance for lab school applications. The third would support lab schools that are approved by the Board as they operate in the Commonwealth.

The Standing Committee also recommended that VDOE begin an internal review of the application, the application rubric, and the website. VDOE staff will update the Standing Committee on progress and suggestions at the next meeting on April 12, 2023. Staff also shared a draft template of the report that will be submitted to the Board along with a completed lab school application.

Bill Hansen requested that the Board be given a sample of what the expected timeline will look like over the next year showing when the applications will be approved as well as how funding will be used.

***J. Written Report on Historical Cut-Scores for the SOL Reading and Mathematics Tests for Grades 3-8***

Dr. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Student Assessment, Accountability and ESEA Programs and Dr. Sarah Susbury, Director of Student Assessment, presented this written report item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

A historical overview of the cut scores for the Standards of Learning reading and mathematics tests for grades 3-8 was provided at the request of board members. This historical overview will provide context as the Board considers changes to the cut scores for these tests over the next year.

The Board did not have any questions or comments on this agenda item.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive this written report. The Board accepted the written report.

### ***K. Written Report on the Implementation of MOU's with Identified Divisions***

Dr. Aurelia Ortiz, Director of School Quality, and Dr. Quentin Ballard, Associate Director of School Quality, presented this written report to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The [Standards of Quality](#) (SOQ) require local school boards to maintain fully accredited schools and to take corrective actions for schools that are not fully accredited. The SOQ's provide the Board of Education with the authority to seek school division compliance. In an effort to provide a system of support to the school divisions, the Board enters into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local school board to identify responsibilities of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff, the local school board, and the school division staff.

During the 2022-2023 school year, five divisions remain under the guidance of an MOU with the Board: Danville City Public Schools, Greensville County Public Schools, Petersburg City Public Schools, Prince Edward County Public Schools, and Richmond City Public Schools.

Each of the five divisions are monitored by the Office of School Quality (OSQ). OSQ meets with the divisions at intervals identified in the MOU, and provides written updates annually to the board, or upon request. The MOU is subject to annual review and revisions by the Virginia Board of Education. Additionally, the division school board and the division superintendent will appear before the Virginia Board of Education, as requested, to provide reports and answer questions about the implementation of the MOU and the corrective action plan.

The purpose of these reports is to provide updates regarding the implementation of memorandum of understanding (MOU) requirements, and each school divisions' progress.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive the report. The Board received the written report.

### ***L. Written Report on the Timeline for Revisions to the Computer Science Standards of Learning***

The *2017 Computer Science Standards of Learning* were adopted in 2016 and are scheduled for review in 2024. These standards included content and instructional practice expectations for grades K-8, which were designed for integration; as well as, standards for standalone computer science courses: one middle school course and three high school courses. The current high school courses include Computer Science Foundations, Computer Science Principles, and Computer Science Programming (Non-Career Technical Education).

The timeline for standards revision typically takes approximately a year for stakeholders and educators to review and revise the standards. The development and revision of the Computer Science Standards and Curriculum Framework meet Goal 2 of the [Virginia Board of Education](#)

[Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023](#), which calls for the development of rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness through a review of all of the Standards of Learning (SOL) on a regular basis.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive the report. The Board received the written report.

***M. Written Report on the Educational Technology Plan for Virginia 2023-2028 Written Report on the Implementation of MOU's with Identified Divisions***

The *Educational Technology Plan for Virginia* (State Technology Plan) provides a comprehensive, long-range plan to integrate educational technology into the Standards of Learning and the curricula of the public schools in Virginia, including computer science and career and technical education programs.

The development of the State Technology Plan will be made with consideration of public comment, via the VDOE website along with input from an internal agency review team and an advisory committee composed of a variety of parents including parents of students with disabilities, parents of gifted students, applicable industry representatives, business partners, military professionals, higher education representatives, professional organizations, school division leadership (principals, instructional technology resource teachers, technology directors, librarians, curriculum and instruction officials), classroom teachers, and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff. Continually emerging trends in educational technology, such as learning analytics, data literacy, virtual and extended reality, artificial intelligence, e-sports, and more will be considered during the development process.

The State Technology Plan is intended to provide continued guidance to school divisions and other stakeholders, such as business and industry partners and professional organizations, on matters relevant to the integration of technologies into the teaching, learning, and management of schools.

The State Technology Plan aligns with the Board of Education (Board) priorities and goals by contributing to providing high-quality, effective learning environments, supporting the development and retention of well-prepared and skilled teachers and school leaders, and ensuring successful implementation of the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate*.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive the report. The Board received the written report.

***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES – by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction***

Ms. Holton shared with the Board that she recently attended the Virginia Student Council Association annual conference. Some of the biggest issues highlighted at the conference were student mental health, substitute and bus driver shortages, teacher salaries, constraints on

teachers about what they can and cannot teach, environmental concerns, and improvement of school lunches.

Ms. Holton also requested an update from the DOE on special education challenges. Kim Richey, Assistant Superintendent of School Quality, Instruction, and Performance, indicated that the department is working on a written update for the Board, noting that the first regulatory issue that was identified has been corrected and the second regulatory issue was just given to the department in February and is currently being addressed. The Board requested that Ms. Richey contact each member to get a list of their concerns that should be addressed in the written report. Ms. Holton also noted that she attended several of the history and social studies public hearings throughout the state found much of the feedback thoughtful and inspiring. Several Board members commented on how impressed they were with the civility of the participants and said it was a positive and rewarding experience.

Mr. Gecker opened discussion regarding the April Board retreat—namely, whether the retreat should be cancelled, postponed, or held as scheduled. The Board agreed that the matter should be left to the discretion of the incoming Superintendent.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION**

There being no further business of the Board, Dr. Mann adjourned the business meeting at 1:28 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board convened on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. Dr. Mann made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 1A: Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

And that Deb Love and Abigail Gump, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, as well staff members Tim Nuthall, Kevin Foster, Dr. Joan Johnson, Angela Schneider, and Steven

Burkarth whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 8:00 am. Dr. Mann made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session at 8:50 am.

President Gecker made a motion that the Board certify by roll-call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker-aye
- Mr. Rotherham-aye
- Mr. Sturdifen-abstain
- Mr. Hansen-aye
- Mr. Seibert-aye
- Mrs. Creasey-aye
- Ms. Holton-aye
- Dr. Mann-aye

The Board convened on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of considering disciplinary cases related to teacher licensure. Dr. Mann made a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with § 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, under the following enumerated subsection:

Subsection 40: Discussion or consideration by the Board of Education of information relating to the denial, suspension, or revocation of teacher licenses subject to the exclusion in subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.3.

And that Deb Love and Abigail Gump, legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education, as well staff members Dr. Joan Johnson, Angela Schneider, Steven Burkarth, Tim Nuthall, and Kevin Foster, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:00 am. Dr. Mann made a motion that the Board reconvened in open session at 10:20 a.m.

President Gecker made a motion that the Board certify by roll-call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

Board roll call:

- Mr. Gecker-aye
- Mr. Rotherham-aye

- Mr. Sturdifen-aye
- Mr. Hansen-aye
- Mr. Seibert-aye
- Mrs. Creasey-aye
- Ms. Holton-aye
- Dr. Mann-aye

Mr. Hansen made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case No. 01. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to revoke the license of Wilson Taylor, III. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mann made a motion to revoke the license of Andrew Prestele Henson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to revoke the license of Matthew Joseph Snell. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen and carried unanimously.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case 5. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried unanimously.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to revoke the license of Daniel King. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert and carried unanimously.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case 7. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mann and carried unanimously.

Dr. Seibert made a motion to issue a license to the individual in Case 8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rotherham and carried unanimously.

Dr. Mann made a motion to revoke the license of Joseph Richard Nowak, III. The motion was seconded by Dr. Seibert and carried unanimously.

### **WORK SESSION**

The Board convened in a work session on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. The agenda and meeting materials can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#). The topics discussed included an update on the proposed revisions to the current accreditation system for 2023-2024 as well as an update on the implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act: Instructional Materials Process. No votes were taken.

### **DINNER MEETING**

The Board met for a public dinner on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 6:15 p.m., at the The Hard Shell restaurant with the following members present: Mr. Sturdifen, Ms. Creasey, Dr. Mann, Dr. Seibert, Ms. Holton, and Mr. Rotherham attended. The following department staff attended: Melissa Velasquez, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications, and Mr. Jim Chapman, Acting Director of Board Relations. No votes were taken. The dinner event ended at 8:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan a. Gecker".

Mr. Dan Gecker, President