Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) Minutes November 9, 2023 Meeting

The Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) held a general committee meeting virtually through Zoom on Thursday, November 9, 2023 from 10:30-11:45AM. 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 and *meeting by electronic means set forth in subsection C of § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia.* The meeting is being broadcasted through the VDOE YouTube channel.

Participants in attendance represent the following agencies, boards, and community: Division Superintendents, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), WHRO Public Media, and Virtual Virginia (VVA).

Place check mark beside members attending and given reason for absent members.

Members in attendance are as follows:

- Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Dr. Marcey Sorenson, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
- ✓ Ms. Calypso Gilstrap, Associate Director, Office of Educational Technology and Classroom Innovation
- ✓ Dr. Meg Foley, Coordinator of Virtual Learning
- ✓ Mr. Reggie Fox, Virtual Learning Specialist
- Dr. Mervin B. Daughtery, Region I, Chesterfield County Schools
- ✓ (Mr. Ernest Longworth)
- Dr. Raymond L. Haynes, Region II, Hampton City Schools
- ✓ (Ms. Jennifer Lockett and Mr. Gary Skeen)
- Dr. Bernard Trey Davis, Region III, Richmond County Public Schools
- Dr. Kevin Newman, Region IV, Manassas City Public Schools
- ✓ Dr. Garett Smith, Region V, Staunton Public Schools
- ✓ (Mr. Tom Lundquist)
- ✓ Mr. C. Dwayne Huff, Region VI, Craig County Schools
- ✓ Dr. Robert Graham, Region VII, Pulaski County Public Schools
- (Mr. Lincoln Whitaker)
- ✓ Mr. Robbie W. Mason, Region VIII, Charlotte County Public Schools
- ✓ Mr. Rodney Jordan, Virginia School Boards Association
- ✓ Ms. Amy Griffin, Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents
- Dr. Mitzi Fehl-Seward, Vice President of Digital Learning, WHRO [meeting commitment]
- ✓ (Ms. Meagan Taylor-Booth)
- ✓ Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director of Virtual VA

Other VDOE participants:
- ✓ Dr. Susan M. Clair, Learning infrastructure Coordinator
- Ms. Keisha Tennessee, Computer Science Coordinator
- ✓ Ms. Cynthia Evans, Support Staff

Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Education and Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning were not able to attend.

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 – Ms. Calypso Gilstrap
- Advisory group objectives: 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
- Membership 3-school year term (Fall 2023 – Spring 2026)

Virtual VA Updates – Dr. Brian Mott
- Dr. Mott provided information and updates on the program components: K-12 Instruction, Outreach Program, Professional Learning, and Summer School.
- Summer Session: Enrollment continues to grow; Session I and II dates are as follows: June 3-July 15 and June 17-July 29.
- K-12 Instruction: Dr. Mott presented part-time and full-time student enrollment data from 2021-2023, global students.
- Survey Feedback: 88% of students are comfortable using online tools; 95% of parents & students are satisfied with the program; 98% school personnel satisfied with rigor of content, and 98% of school personnel are satisfied with the curriculum alignment.
- Statewide LMS: School divisions are using CANVAS as a platform for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Dr. Mott provided information on virtual dual enrollment indicating an increase in interest for online options.
- Professional Learning: Free training is offered for VA public educators; catalog of offerings is available; microcredentials are emerging. There has been growth with partnerships in the community, and VDOE is piloting the online course – Leveraging the Power of Virtual Learning.

Virtual Learning Updates – Dr. Meg Foley & Mr. Reggie Fox
Dr. Foley and Mr. Fox presented information related to the Multidivision Online Provider program and Virtual Learning.
- Survey results were presented from the MOP survey conducted in 2022-23. Students and families are very satisfied with the program. Student enrollment is

over 9500 with course enrollments over 48,000.

- Professional Learning includes a virtual course pilot entitled Leveraging the Power of Virtual Learning. The course has 6 modules offering participants a range of module topics: What is virtual learning? Engaging students online, Communicating online, Engaging families and stakeholders as supporters of virtual learning, Assessment, and Digital Citizenship.

Technology Update – Dr. Susan M. Clair

- Dr. Clair provided information an update on state of Broadband in Virginia. She presented information relative to access, affordability, and adoption. Universal Broadband by 2028 includes Broadband equity access and deployment funding, $1.4 billion in Virginia.
- WIFI on buses will be eligible for e-Rate funding support. Eligible Service Lists Supplements will provide additional information about topics not addressed in the ruling such as: Will equipment and services be classified as Cat 1 or Cat 2 expense? Questions related to Form 470, RFP requirements, and parked buses will be addressed.

Computer Science Update – Ms. Keisha Tennessee (information presented by Ms. Calypso Gilstrap on behalf of Ms. Tennessee)

- Review and Revision of the 2017 *Computer Science Standards of Learning*. First Review: March 2024; Final Adoption: May 2024
- National Computer Science Education Week; Launch at VSTE (Computer Science focused sessions). Nominations for Computer Science Educator of the Year 2022- 2023 School Year were presented.
- NEW Release of Computer Science Instructional Resources Learning with *Techne* Computer Science Careers in the Commonwealth Making Meaningful Connections: Computer Science Integration Course

Instructional Technology Updates – Ms. Calypso Gilstrap

- Go OpenVA: In 2022, 120,000 unique users with 382,000 visits to access our 22,894 resources. This spring we updated to 2.5 to increase information security. SAML/SOS with Google and Clever; Virtual Learning Integration with Canvas, Schoology, and Google Classroom
- Educational Technology Plan: The current plan, which is housed in the comprehensive plan, expires this year. Reflection, Request, and Research Phase; Final document will be recommended to the Board of Education in November. Goals will include virtual learning access, use, and design.
- Internet Safety Council: The Office of Educational Technology and Classroom Innovation has created an Internet Safety Advisory Council in response to the new legislation (§ 22.1-24.1.) created from House Bill 1575, which is focused on the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth. We are charged specifically with curating: successful instructional practices, curricula, and other teacher resources used in school divisions within and outside of the

Commonwealth.
- The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has partnered with [Project Tomorrow](#) to administer surveys in the areas of educational technology.
- A new podcast is coming in December! The goals of the podcast are: To activate professional learning by elevating classroom teachers through interviews; To connect teachers with common practices and success highlights; To encourage self-care for educators; and To amplify the small spaces in instructional technology.

Reporting from the Committee:
- Several school division committee members made comments about the integration of technology, WIFI availability, and other positive examples of why technology use is so important to our students and families.
- VASS, WHRO, and VSBA participants provide information about upcoming events and initiatives that involve the integration of technology.

Public viewing on the VDOE YouTube channel may email questions/comments to the mailbox until November 15, 2023: virtualprograms@doe.virginia.gov.

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 which will be an in-person meeting based on the adopted policy voted by the VLAC members.. Meg Foley, and Mr. Reginald Fox all thanked the committee and guest participants for their participation in this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33AM.