

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**November 15, 2023**

The Board of Education (“Board”) convened in a special meeting on November 15, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mrs. Grace Creasey, President	Mr. Bill Hansen, Vice President (remote)
Mrs. Mashea Ashton	Ms. Anne Holton
Mr. Andy Rotherham	Dr. Amber Northern
Mr. Dale Sturdifen	Dr. Alan Seibert
Mrs. Debbie Kilgore (absent)	Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

President Creasey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Creasey also noted that she approved Mr. Hansen’s remote participation under the Board’s Bylaws and § [2.2-3708.3\(B\)\(3\)](#) of the Code of Virginia because his principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Creasey asked for a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

President Creasey asked for a motion to amend the agenda, moving discussion of items E, H, F, and G prior to discussion of item B. Ms. Ashton motioned to approve the amended agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Holton made a motion to amend the minutes to include a request that a statement be added of a request that a new rubric for special education, showing how the iTeach rubric meets the regulatory requirements, be provided. The motion was not approved.

Mrs. Kilgore: Absent  
Ms. Holton: Aye  
Dr. Seibert: Abstain  
Mr. Hansen: Object  
Ms. Creasey: Object  
Ms. Ashton: Object  
Dr. Northern: Object  
Mr. Sturdifen: Object  
Mr. Rotherham: Abstain

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 19, 2023, as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried by majority.

Mrs. Kilgore: Absent  
Ms. Holton: Object  
Dr. Seibert: Abstain  
Mr. Hansen: Aye  
Ms. Creasey: Aye  
Ms. Ashton: Aye  
Dr. Northern: Aye  
Mr. Sturdifen: Aye  
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Family Engagement Month: Ms. Ashton presented a resolution recognizing November 2023 as Family Engagement in Education Month, which recognizes the strengthening relationships between parents, schools, educators and communities. Ms. Ashton made a motion to adopt this resolution. The resolution was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Northern presented a recognition of the 2022 Milken Educator Award Winner, [Pamela Stepko](#), thanking her for her dedication to the education of the students of Virginia. This award recognizes early to mid-career educators who offer strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and who are engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Seibert 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 subsections:

Subsection (A)(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.

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 legal counsel to the Virginia Board of Education and staff, whose presence would aid in this matter, participate in the closed meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:35 a.m. Dr. Seibert made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session at 11:35 a.m.

President Creasey 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:

Mrs. Kilgore: Absent  
Ms. Holton: Aye  
Dr. Seibert: Aye  
Mr. Hansen: Aye  
Ms. Creasey: Aye  
Ms. Ashton: Aye  
Dr. Northern: Aye  
Mr. Sturdifen: Aye  
Mr. Rotherham: Aye

Dr. Seibert made a motion to suspend the license of Karen Lynn Sutherland James for a period of five years. The motion was seconded and carried by majority.

Mrs. Kilgore – Absent  
Ms. Ashton- Aye

Dr. Seibert – Aye  
Mr. Hansen – Aye  
Mrs. Creasey – Aye  
Dr. Northern – Object  
Mr. Rotherham – Aye  
Ms. Holton – Aye  
Mr. Sturdifen- Object

Dr. Seibert made a motion to deny the license of Lynnsey Ruth Hale Urgo Parker. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### ***B. Discussion of the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan***

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented 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. Ashton made a motion to accept the Board of Education Comprehensive Plan for first review. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

#### ***C. Discussion of the Board of Education 2023 Annual Report***

Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to accept the Board of Education 2023 Annual Report for first review with final review requested at the December meeting. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***D. Discussion of the Board of Education 2023 Prescriptions on the Standards of Quality***

Dr. Jeremy Raley, Virginia Department of Education Chief of Staff, presented 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. Ashton made a motion to direct the VDOE staff to come back to the Board with the at-risk add-on with some additional options to consider, including the JLARC recommendations and include the reading specialists, support staff, counselors and take into consideration the division average under the flexible spending. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Holton made a motion to add into the SOQ prescriptions the elimination of the support staff cap. The motion did not carry based on the following votes:

Ms. Ashton – Object  
Dr. Northern – Object  
Mr. Sturdifen – Object  
Mr. Rotherham – Object  
Mr. Hansen – Object  
Ms. Creasey- Object  
Ms. Holton – Aye  
Dr. Seibert – Aye

Ms. Holton made a motion to add a prescription to the SOQ mandating counselors at a ratio of 1:250 reading specialists to the full requirements of the VLA. The motion did not carry based on the following votes:

Mr. Hansen – Object  
Ms. Ashton – Object  
Dr. Northern – Object  
Mr. Rotherham – Object  
Mr. Sturdifen – Object  
Ms. Creasey- Object  
Dr. Seibert – Aye  
Ms. Holton – Aye

Ms. Holton made a motion for the VDOE to come back to the Board with language that would enable the Board to enact an SOQ prescription to calculate the prevailing costs using the division average rather than the current formula's linear weighted average as per the JLARC report. The motion did not carry based on the following votes:

Ms. Ashton – Object  
Dr. Northern – Object  
Mr. Sturdifen – Aye  
Mr. Rotherham – Aye  
Mr. Hansen – Object  
Ms. Creasey- Object  
Ms. Holton – Object  
Dr. Seibert – Aye

***E. First and Final Review of Nominations to Advisory Board Vacancies***

Jim Chapman, Director of Board Relations, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill the vacancies on ECAC. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***F. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Germanna Community College***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to waive first review and approve the College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Germanna Community College for a three-year period with annual reviews and to delegate to the President and Superintendent final negotiation of the lab school contract, including awarding startup funds and up to \$6 million in per-pupil funding from the College Partnership Laboratory School fund, in accordance with the Board guidelines. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

***G. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from the University of Mary Washington***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Rotherham made a motion to waive first review and approve the College Partnership Laboratory School Application from the University of Mary Washington for a three-year period with annual reviews and to delegate to the President and Superintendent final negotiation of the lab school contract, including awarding startup funds and up to \$6 million in per-pupil funding from the College Partnership Laboratory School fund, in accordance with the Board guidelines. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

#### ***H. First and Final Review of Programmatic Accreditation Guidelines for Career and Technical Education***

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Mr. Sturdifen made a motion to waive first review and approve the Programmatic Accreditation Guidelines for Career and Technical Education. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

#### ***I. First Review of Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide K-5***

Dr. Emily Solari, Edmund H. Henderson Professor of Education at the University of Virginia School of Education, presented this item for consideration by the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

The Board of Education received the item for first review.

### **PRESENTATIONS/WRITTEN REPORTS**

#### ***J. Update on Special Education***

Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

#### ***K. Update on College Partnership Laboratory Schools***

Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- David Rudman spoke regarding an override of denial of licensure and his created curriculum.
- Jason Schiller spoke in support of in-service training of school nurse on PANS/PANDAS.
- Samantha Schiller spoke in support of in-service training of school nurse on PANS/PANDAS.
- Eric Terry spoke regarding the First and Final Review of Programmatic Accreditation Guidelines for Career and Technical Education.
- Colleen Eddy spoke regarding Item I: First Review of Updated Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide.

### **DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES**

Dr. Coons gave an update on the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force. She noted that they have met twice, once to discuss transportation and the other to discuss parent engagement. The task force has requested that the meetings be recorded and discussion guides created so school divisions can use them and replicate their own conversations. Dr. Coons also noted that there was a Virginia Association of School Superintendents presentation session about what it means to be a Literacy Superintendent and what resources are provided to school divisions, giving some examples of activities school divisions are providing to support the ALL In Program.

Mr. Sturdifan requested that information regarding the PANS/PANDAS (highlighted during public comment) be distributed to school divisions so nurses are aware of this disease.

Dr. Northern encouraged the Board members to review the School District Funding Report. Dr. Northern also highlighted dual enrollment programs and the need to continue monitoring the rigor of those courses.

Mr. Rotherham and Ms. Holton noted objections to having the public comment portion at the end of the meeting and the need to give constituents the opportunity to speak about issues before they are voted on during meetings.

After discussion, the Board agreed that only public comments pertaining to action items will be accepted for the December special meeting.



Ms. Holton requested an update in the backlog of teacher licensure and the automation of the licensure system. Dr. Coons indicated that the automated system is anticipated to be released in the next few days, as long as the system security meets the security expectations of the VDOE.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Creasey adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Grace Turner Creasey, M.Ed.  
President, Virginia Board of Education