



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: I

Date: April 25, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of Nominations to Board of Education Advisory Committees

Presenter: Jim Chapman, Director, Office of Board Relations

Purpose of Presentation

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws

Executive Summary

The advisory committees of the Board of Education (“Board”) have three-year terms. Some of the Board's advisory committees require specific categories of expertise or geographic representation pursuant to state or federal law or regulation.

The Board currently has vacancies on the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (“ABTEL”), the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (“ECAC”), and the Virginia Advisory Committee on Advanced Learning (“VACAL”). Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”) staff solicited nominations for these vacancies on February 15, 2024, through the Virginia Education Update #[2024-07](#) and #[2024-11](#).

After reviewing applications, the following individuals are presented to the Board as nominees for appointment:

Nominations to ABTEL

Dr. Eric Moffa
Higher Education Representative (Private)
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Dr. Peggy Schimmoeller
Higher Education Representative (Private)

Term expiration: June 30, 2026

Dr. Lindy Johnson
Higher Education Representative (Public)
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Mrs. Shelby Elliott
School Personnel Administration
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Beth Ashley
Classroom Teacher Elementary
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Susan Traner
Classroom Teacher Secondary
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Nominations to ECAC

Shikee Franklin
Head Start (not school-based)
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Cheryl Morman
Publicly funded family day home
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Valerie Irizarry
Parent of a child enrolled in a publicly funded ECCE program
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Elizabeth Yanez
Business owners, operators, and employees in Virginia
Term expiration: June 30, 2026

Christopher Quinn
Business owners, operators, and employees in Virginia

Term expiration: June 30, 2026¹

Erin Edmonson

ECCE provider that is exempt from licensure

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Cecilia Suarez

Publicly funded licensed center (for profit)

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Gina Wohlford

Local school division or school board that operates early childhood programs

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Maryam Sharifian

Professional or faculty member with expertise in early childhood from a college or university in Virginia

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Susan Patrick

Nonprofit entity that provides child care resource and referral services

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Nominations to VACAL

Mark Levy

Academic Year Governor's School Director

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Dr. Jonathan Plucker

National Expert on Gifted and/or Advanced Academic programming

Term expiration: June 30, 2027

¹ Note that under state law, ECAC membership must include one representative of business owners, operators, and employees in Virginia. Given that we received two strongly and equally qualified applicants and the current focus on the business sector and promoting employer engagement in ECCE, we recommend nominating an additional business representative to the Committee as is permissible under § 22.1-289.04 upon approval by the Board.

Dr. Beth Teigen
Division Superintendent
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Dr. Brian Kitts
Higher Education Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Toya Williams
Private School employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced
Academic programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Teresa McNeely
Region 1 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic
programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Kerry Ambrosino
Region 2 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic
programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Ladona Gorham
Region 3 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic
programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Sara Gardner
Region 4 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic
programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Carla Van Devander
Region 5 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic
programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2025

Christopher Taibbi

Region 6 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2025

Roxanne Souma
Region 7 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Rebecca Hancock
Region 8 employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted and/or Advanced Academic programming
Term expiration: June 30, 2025

Melissa Hayes
Region 1 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Vanna Upchurch
Region 2 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

LaRae Snoddy
Region 3 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Debra Tisler
Region 4 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Joel Abe
Region 5 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Anna Vijayan
Region 6 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Dr. Knotresha Stewart
Region 7 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2025

Katie Gaffney
Region 8 Parent Representative
Term expiration: June 30, 2027

Action Requested

The Board is requested to waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill the vacancies and expiring positions on ABTEL, ECAC, and VACAL.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and approve the recommended nominees to fill the vacancies and expiring positions on ABTEL, ECAC, and VACAL.

Rationale for Action

Board action is required on appointments to ABTEL, ECAC, and VACAL. To fill current vacancies and expiring positions, Board action is requested at this meeting.

Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Article Nine, Section 2 of the Board’s bylaws states the following:

Section 2. Advisory Committees. Advisory committees may be created by the Board for special purposes to include, but not be limited to, federal and state-mandated committees. An advisory committee shall be composed of persons who represent the views and interests of the general public and who are known to be qualified to perform their duties. Personnel of the Department of Education may be appointed to the committee, as members or as consultants. Unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law or regulations, all appointments to an advisory committee shall be made by the Board upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction...

The Board’s bylaws also specify the membership and term of service in Article Fifteen, Section 3 and 4, as follows:

Section 3. Membership. The Board shall determine the number of members to serve on an advisory committee, and shall appoint the members of the committee, as specified in Board bylaws under Article 9, Section 2, except as provided by state or federal law or regulation. Nominations for all vacant positions will be solicited as widely as practicable and on forms provided by the Virginia Department of Education. Members of advisory committees shall not receive compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with state travel guidelines set forth by the Department of Accounts. The Board, at its discretion, may appoint a member of the Board to serve as a liaison to the advisory committee.

Section 4. Term of Service. Appointments to an advisory committee shall be for a term of three years. Members of an advisory committee may be re-appointed, with no member serving more than two consecutive three-year terms. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Board.

Section [22.1-305.2](#) of the Code of Virginia sets the composition requirements for ABTEL:

There is hereby established the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (the Advisory Board), which shall consist of three legislative members to be appointed as follows: two members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 21 nonlegislative citizen members to be appointed by the Board of Education. Ten nonlegislative citizen members of the Advisory Board shall be classroom teachers, with at least the following representation: three elementary school teachers, three middle school teachers, and three high school teachers. Three nonlegislative citizen members of the Advisory Board shall be school administrators, one of whom shall be a school principal, one of whom shall be a division superintendent, and one of whom shall be a school personnel administrator. Four nonlegislative citizen members of the Advisory Board shall be faculty members in teacher preparation programs in public or private institutions of higher education, who may represent the arts and sciences. One nonlegislative citizen member of the Advisory Board shall be a member of a school board. One nonlegislative citizen member of the Advisory Board shall be a member of a parent-teacher association. One nonlegislative citizen member of the Advisory Board shall be a representative of the business community, and one nonlegislative citizen member shall be a citizen at large. The Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System or his designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Advisory Board. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee and the Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia or his designee shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the Advisory Board.

Section [22.1-289.04](#) of the *Code of Virginia* sets the composition requirements for ECAC:

The Board shall establish an early childhood care and education advisory committee to advise the Board on programs, systems, and regulations established pursuant to this chapter. The advisory committee shall include the following members, who shall represent geographically diverse areas: (i) two representatives of publicly funded licensed providers, including at least one for-profit provider; (ii) one representative of an early childhood care and education entity that is not a publicly funded provider; (iii) two representatives of early childhood care and education entities that are license-exempt pursuant to Article 4 (§ [22.1-289.030](#) et seq.), including one representative of an early childhood care and education entity that is exempt from licensure pursuant to § [22.1-289.031](#); (iv) three representatives of Head Start providers, one of which shall be operated by a local school division, and two of which shall not be operated by a local school division; (v) two representatives from local school divisions or local school boards operating early childhood programs other than Head Start providers; (vi) two representatives of nonprofit advocacy organizations in the Commonwealth that focus on early childhood care and education; (vii) one representative of a family day home that is a publicly funded provider; (viii) two professionals or faculty members from an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth who have child development or early childhood education expertise; (ix) one representative from the Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; (x) one representative from an advocacy or service organization that focuses on serving children with disabilities; (xi) one representative from a business in the Commonwealth; (xii) one parent of a child currently enrolled in a preschool program offered by a publicly funded provider; (xiii) one representative of the Virginia Council on Private Education; (xiv) one representative from a statewide nonprofit association in the Commonwealth whose membership includes both before-school and afterschool nonprofit child care providers and nonprofit preschool providers; (xv) one representative from a nonprofit entity that provides child care resource and referral services related to the operation of early childhood care and education programs; and (xvi) such other members as the Board may deem appropriate. The Commissioner of Social Services or his designee, the Secretary of Education or his designee, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or his designee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee, the Commissioner of the Department of Health or his designee, the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services or his designee, and the Director of the Head Start Collaboration Office shall serve ex officio without voting privileges. The

Board shall establish bylaws for such advisory committee that include term length and limits for members.

The Board established VACAL, including its composition requirements, at its meeting on [January 25, 2024](#). Those requirements are as follows:

- Regions 1 through 8: one (1) division employee or administrator affiliated with Gifted Education or advanced academic programming and one (1) parent for each Region, for 16 representatives.
- Academic Year Governor’s School (AYGS) Director: one (1)
- Higher Education representative: one (1)
- Private school employee affiliated with Gifted Education or advanced academic programming: one (1)
- Division Superintendent: one (1)
- Nationally recognized expert in Gifted Education and/or advanced academic programming
- DOE Representative: one (1, ex-officio, non-voting)

Stakeholder Engagement

VDOE”) staff solicited nominations for these vacancies on February 15, 2024, through the Virginia Education Update #[2024-07](#) and #[2024-11](#).

Implementation and Communication

Following Board action, VDOE staff will notify selected applicants of their appointments.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

The operating expenses and other costs associated with the meetings and functions of the Board’s advisory committees are provided through VDOE’s operating funds. Where applicable, federal funds are provided to support the expenses and the work of an advisory committee.