



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: O

Date: April 25, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Paul D. Camp Community College

Presenter: Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation (i.e., a change in law requires a change in program requirements; this is part of a regulatory action).

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2024, Paul D. Camp Community College (“PDCC”) submitted a college partnership laboratory school (“lab school” or “PDCC lab school”) application for PDCC’s Lab School (“PDCC application”) for consideration by the Board of Education (“Board”). PDCC’s Lab School is formally named Isle Maritime Trade Academy (“IMTA”). In accordance with the Board’s [Guidelines for the Approval of College Partnership Laboratory Schools](#) and the [process](#) established by the Board’s College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (“Standing Committee”), the application was reviewed by a subject-matter expert group (“SME group”) composed of staff of the Virginia Department of Education (“VDOE”).

The VDOE SME group generated a completeness and compliance review (“compliance review”), which was submitted to the Standing Committee for review at its meeting on April 11, 2024.

The Standing Committee received the IMTA application and completeness and compliance report, and it also asked questions of representatives from IMTA after a detailed presentation from the IMTA applicants including Dr. Corey McCray, President of Paul D. Camp Community College, Dr. Tara Atkins-Brady, Vice President of Academic and Student Development at Paul D. Camp Community College, and Dr. Marsha Cale, Director of Secondary Instruction at Isle of Wight County Schools. Dr. Andy Armstrong, on behalf of the VDOE, provided the Standing Committee with an overview of the objectives of the IMTA lab school, the VDOE Expert team

completion and compliance process, as well as their compliance coaching and review of additional application materials received from IMTA since their initial submission in March of 2024. The IMTA applicants were present at the meeting and answered questions posed by the Standing Committee at final review. The Standing Committee unanimously approved First and Final Review of the IMTA application to be forwarded for consideration by the Virginia Board of Education contingent upon responsiveness by IMTA to the provision of the following:

- Updated draft or final MOU with Isle of Wight County Public Schools to include detail related to student meals, transportation, special education, extracurricular activities, and student advising.
- Additional detail related to the use of Virtual Virginia.
- Updated financial information.

VDOE staff posted the PDCC application for the 10-day public comment period on April 11, and it remained available until April 25. No comment was received.

On April 11, 2024, Dr. Andy Armstrong provided the Standing Committee with an overview of the objectives of the IMTA lab school, the VDOE Expert team completion and compliance process, as well as their compliance coaching and review of additional application materials received from IMTA since their initial submission in March of 2024. The IMTA applicants were present at the meeting and answered questions posed by the Standing Committee at final review. The Standing Committee unanimously voted to endorse the IMTA lab school application and refer to the Board for approval.

Prior to the Standing Committee's First and Final Review on April 11, 2024, PDCC and VDOE staff collaborated in technical assistance calls on March 18, 2024, and March 22, 2024. A budget meeting was held among PDCC, VDOE, and the Governor's Transformation Office on March 27, 2024.

The application proposes for PDCC to begin a lab school in collaboration and partnership with Isle of Wight County Public Schools. The proposed lab school named "Isle Maritime Trades Academy" is an innovative interdisciplinary lab school model that focuses on providing career exposure to students through real-world problem solving in collaboration with higher education professionals, pre-service college students, and industry experts. Students remain enrolled in their home school division and enter IMTA as juniors in one of two career pathways: marine welding and marine electrical. The curriculum consists of dual enrollment credit courses in the first three semesters, and maritime trades-specific workforce training in the fourth semester.

The lab school would address multiple desirable outcomes for students, future teachers, and regional schools with hiring needs, including the following:

- Students will engage in high-level application of real-world problem-solving while working closely with a team of experts from both industry and the higher education partners.
- PDCC’s Lab School will provide a space for innovation where educators, industry, and pre-service professionals can explore best practices in teaching and learning.
- Students will engage in coursework aligned with personal interest and regional market demand industry and business, streamlining the pipeline for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand employment in the region served by the Lab School.

The Lab School statutes favor control by the institute of Higher Education. The governance structure of the IMTA Lab School meets those criteria. VDOE SME team will continue to advise IMTA on meeting statutory compliance within the Applicant’s constitution, governance, and bylaws.

The approval of lab schools aligns with Priority 4 of the Board’s *Comprehensive Plan 2024–2029*: to create innovative pathways for every learner.

Action Requested

First and final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

On the basis of the recommendations from the Standing Committee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (“Superintendent”) recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the PDCC lab school application for a five-year contract period with annual reviews.

The Superintendent further recommends that the Board delegate to the President of the Board and the Superintendent final negotiation of the college partnership laboratory school contract with PDCC, including awarding start-up funds and up to \$1,728,000 in per-pupil funding from the College Partnership Laboratory School Fund in accordance with the [Board’s Guidelines and Criteria for the Award and Distribution of Lab School Start-Up and Per-Pupil Operating Funding Grants for Approved Lab Schools](#).

Rationale for Action

The PDCC lab school proposal partners with Isle of Wight Public Schools to provide dual enrollment programming in conjunction with Paul D. Camp Community College. Lab school students are provided specialty courses in one of two career pathways: marine welding and marine electrical. Additionally, the proposal has undergone a thorough review process by the Standing Committee. Approval at the April 25, 2024, meeting of the Board is critical to allowing the lab school to begin start-up activities in order to open for operations in the 2025-2026 school year.

Previous Review or Action

The PDCC application has undergone review by the Board’s Standing Committee:

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Background Information and Statutory Authority

[Chapter 19.1](#) of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia sets the statutory requirements for lab schools and the process for approving such schools.

Section [22.1-349.6](#) requires the Board to “establish procedures for receiving, reviewing, and ruling upon applications and shall make a copy of any such procedures available to all interested parties upon request. If the Board finds that the application is incomplete, the Board shall request the necessary additional information from the applicant. The Board's review procedures shall establish a review committee that may include experts with the operation of similar schools located in other states.”

In accordance with § [22.1-349.6](#), the Board has set the [Guidelines for the Approval of College Partnership Laboratory Schools](#). Moreover, in preparation for receiving applications, the Board re-formed the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee met from 2010–2013 and had new members appointed by the Board President in December 2022. The Standing Committee comprises five members: Joan Wodiska (Chair), Dr. Pam Moran (Vice-Chair), and John Bailey, as well as Board members Bill Hansen and Andy Rotherham.

The Standing Committee has had eight public meetings in 2023 and four in 2024. After each meeting, the Standing Committee has provided a report on progress to the Board. In its meetings, the Standing Committee has set up a process for reviewing applications, including a SME review by VDOE staff; standardized process documents, such as application rubrics,

compliance reports, and reports to the Board; revised the lab school application; reviewed applications from multiple applicants; and received public comment.

Upon receiving the PDCC lab school application on March 11, 2024, Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation for the Virginia Department of Education, convened a SME group in accordance with the process established by the Standing Committee.

The SME group was composed of the following individuals:

- Dr. Andrew Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation
- Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services
- Ms. Melissa Velazquez, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications
- Ms. Shawna LeBlond, Director, Office of Teacher Licensure
- Mr. Edward Lanza, Director of Budgeting
- Mr. Jason Ellis, Office of Student Performance and Support
- Ms. Rebecca Askew, Director of Policy
- Ms. Claire Bremner, Coordinator of Innovation
- Ms. Erin Madden, Office of Policy

The lab school application was reviewed by members of the SME group for completeness and compliance according to their areas of expertise. The compliance report was then provided to the Standing Committee for first and final review on April 11, 2024.

At review, the PDCC applicants presented detailed information and insight to the Standing Committee on their plan for their lab school model. The Standing Committee queried the applicants on various portions of the application, with emphasis on credit attainment and flexibility for IMTA students, integration of virtual learning, and revenue sources. The PDCC applicants responded to all questions, and the Standing Committee approved first and final review and cleared the PDCC application for the 10-day public comment posting period. The Standing Committee recommended the PDCC application to advance to Board consideration for approval at the April 25, 2024, Board meeting.

At the Standing Committee meeting in April, Dr. Andy Armstrong stated PDCC's Lab School is compliant and ready to implement and recommended to the Committee that PDCC's Lab School be forwarded to the Virginia Board of Education for their consideration for approval at the April 25, 2024, meeting. The PDCC applicants were present at the meeting to answer any questions posed by the Standing Committee at standing committee review. Satisfied with all

PDCC applicant responses to their inquiries, the Standing Committee endorsed the application and recommended the application be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Standing Committee has provided opportunity for public comment on agenda items, including the PDCC application, at each of the meetings where the application was reviewed. Additionally, the application was posted for a 10-day public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee's process. The public comment was announced through the [Virginia Education Update #2024-15](#).

The PDCC lab school application has received letters of support from numerous stakeholders, which have been included in the materials for this item, including the following:

- Dr. Theo Cramer, Superintendent, Isle of Wight County Schools
- Mr. Jason Maresh, Chair, Isle of Wight County Public Schools Board
- Mr. Bill Crow, President, Virginia Ship Repair Association
- Mr. Shawn Avery, President/CEO, Hampton Roads Workforce Council
- Mr. Xavier Beale, Vice President of Human Resources, Newport News Shipbuilding

Implementation and Communication

Upon approval by the Board, VDOE staff will coordinate with the Office of the Attorney General to execute a contract between the Board and PDCC to establish the lab school within 90 days, in accordance with § [22.1-349.5](#) of the Code of Virginia, as well as §§ [22.1-349.3\(C\)](#) and [22.1-349.4](#).

The approval of the lab school will be publicized through the VDOE, Paul D. Camp Community College, and participating school divisions.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

This item will not impact resources at VDOE.