



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: CC

Date: April 11, 2024

Title: Written Report from the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee

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

Purpose of Presentation:
For information only: No action required.

Lab Schools in Virginia

According to the International Association of Lab Schools (“IALS”), there are approximately 200 lab schools in the world. While ambitious, the VDOE & the Standing Committee hopes to receive lab school applicants from all 8 regions in Virginia, and to be able to support and recommend for the Board’s consideration at least one high-quality, sustainable, public lab school in each region.

Further, from the applications received to date, the lab school opportunity is helping to: (1) facilitate deeper collaboration between K-12 and higher education; (2) support local and regionally led innovation, (3) offer students and families new personalized learning opportunities and additional family engagement and outreach; and (4) address Virginia’s critical workforce shortages, in areas, such as teaching, cyber, and aerospace. The Standing Committee thanks the State Board for the opportunity to advise on this important work.

Executive Summary:

The College Partnership Laboratory Schools Standing Committee (“Standing Committee”) of the Board of Education (“Board”) met on April 11, 2024. Below is a summary of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS

- A. Pipeline Update
- B. Virginia Lab Schools and Innovation Network

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- C. Memorandum on Eligibility of Private Schools
- D. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Process Revisions
- E. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Emory and Henry College
- F. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from George Mason University
- F. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from George Mason University
- G. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Roanoke College
- H. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Paul D. Camp Community College
- I. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University (Newport News)
- J. First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University (Chesapeake)

Special Guests

Attending this meeting was Grace Turner Creasey, M. Ed., President of the Virginia Board of Education, Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, and Jeremy Raley, Chief of Staff, Virginia Department of Education.

College Partnership Laboratory School Application Pipeline Update

Dr. Andy Armstrong presented the College Partnership Laboratory School Application Pipeline Update (“Pipeline Update”). The Pipeline Update categorizes the Lab School Applications from Planning Grant to Contract and identifies where all potential applicants are in the Lab school Application process. The color-coded Lab School Application Pipeline presentation is attached.

Since the last meeting of the Standing Committee, this process has incorporated significant additional supports to ensure that the Standing Committee is in receipt of complete and compliant applications by the Governor’s Transformation Office to standardize budget formats and a multi-step review by the Office of the Attorney General to ensure statutory compliance. In addition, VDOE is in the process of hiring an additional staff member to support the work of approved lab school implementation. VDOE policy staff have also been given dedicated responsibility in the office of innovation toward lab school application review and contract work.

The overall statistics of the Lab School Pipeline Summary as of today's meeting (4/11/2024) are as follows:

- 21 applications submitted.
- 6 applications approved (Virginia Commonwealth University, Germanna Community College, University of Mary Washington, James Madison University, University of Virginia, and Mountain Gateway Community College)
- 6 pending applications (by Standing Committee on 4/11/2024)
- 7 applications under review by VDOE
- 3 applications withdrawn (clarification of the number of withdrawals which was 5 includes Lynchburg College, which never formally submitted a College Lab School Application and therefore not considered "withdrawn" and Eastern Shore Community College which has re-engaged in the application process and is in a "TBD" state).

Dr. Andy Armstrong reported the newly approved lab schools will be serving nearly 1,000 students in 2024 with over 2,500 by 2029.

Virginia Lab Schools Innovation Network

Dr. Andy Armstrong presented an update to the Virginia Lab Schools Innovation Network which is designed to be an eco-system to support approved Lab Schools and provide a network venue to share innovative learning models in a professional learning community. To do this, the VDOE agency is currently developing lab school opening action kits for fall 2024 for the operational lab schools, creating thematic subnetworks for lab schools sharing common workforce and content focus areas, and establishing a regular cadence of monthly and on-demand calls, site visits, and convenings to problem solve and network in anticipation of school openings.

The Lab School Innovation Network also includes outlined specific phases to address lab school operational requirements (e.g., Phase I – hiring, licensure, etc., Phase II – finance, compliance, etc., Phase II – Media Engagement, Start of school requirements, etc.)

The Standing Committee acknowledged Lab School Innovation Network next steps reflect the above actions as well as establish regular contact with our 2024 lab schools, continue to support activation of business, industry, K-12, higher ed, and philanthropic partners for long term sustainability, and plan for program evaluation as we support our 2025 lab school during their start-up year to support successful outcomes for each approved lab school.

Memorandum on Eligibility of Private Schools

Deborah Love, Chief of Staff, Virginia Office of the Attorney General, presented a legal overview of the eligibility of private institutes of higher education to participate in the College

Partnership Laboratory School Program under the Virginia State Statute. The statute definition lays out three eligible classes of institutions able to participate in the creation of a College Partnership Laboratory School (which is related to VA Code Statute 23.1) includes a public, non-sectarian, non-religious school established by:

- (1) Public institutions of higher education
- (2) A public institution of higher education center, institute, or authority
- (3) Or an eligible institution as defined elsewhere in the VA code (e.g., Statute 23.1)
 - This definition includes eligible institution a non-profit institution of higher education whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate, graduate, or professional education and not to provide religious training or theological education.

First and Final Review of College Partnership Laboratory School Process Revisions

Dr. Andy Armstrong provided background for the recommended changes to the lab school process document. Since March 2023, the Standing Cmte utilized a process to review lab school applications, that included required multiple stages of VDOE, Standing Committee and BOE review and public feedback. The applications on the agenda for First and Final review today (and moving forward) have been through multiple stages of subject matter expert review, at least two (2) stages of OAG review, and have had significant budget and sustainability feedback and revisions in response to the work of the VDOE partnership with the Governor’s Transformation team.

The goal of this enhanced effort is to assure the Standing Committee that any edits or changes required of an applicant subsequent to Standing Committee review can be resolved prior to consideration by the BOE. The BOE approved guidelines for Laboratory School Applications include the ability for the BOE to conduct multiple reviews of the Lab School Application.

The recommended changes to the Standing Committee Lab School Application Process (see attached graphic) deletes the Second Review by the Standing Committee and aligns the Standing Committee Lab School Review Process to BOE approved guidelines which require a meeting with the Standing Committee along with opportunity for public comment followed by a Standing Committee report and recommendation to the BOE. The Standing Committee approved the changes by a vote of 3-2.

Emory & Henry College

The Standing Committee began the First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from Emory & Henry College (“EMC”). Southwest Virginia Healthcare Excellence Academy Lab School (“SWVA-HEALS Application”) is a collaborative partnership between Emory & Henry College, the public-school divisions of Smyth County, Wythe County, Washington County, and

the City of Bristol, Virginia Highlands Community College, Wytheville Community College, the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (“Applicants”).

The SWVA-HEALS program is designed to establish a high school career academy for 10th-12th graders to serve as a “pipeline” for preparing future healthcare professionals to meet the workforce shortages in Southwest Virginia. The mission of SWVA-HEALS is to work collaboratively with regional education, healthcare, and community partners to provide a rigorous, high-quality learning environment that promotes increased awareness of potential healthcare careers and prepares college and career ready students to pursue the required college degrees and professional credentials that lead to healthcare careers. The overall goal of the program is to develop a sustainable high school academic pipeline through rigorous dual and concurrent enrollment courses in foundational sciences, introductory healthcare content, healthcare career exploration. The outcome of the lab school is to increase the number of future healthcare providers practicing in Southwest Virginia.

Applicant representatives included Dr. Mike Robinson, Director, A. Linwood Holton Governor's School Governor School, David Matlock, Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Dr. Dennis Carter, Superintendent, Smyth County Public Schools, Dr. David Scott, Superintendent, Bristol Virginia Public Schools, Dr. Adam Hutchison, President Virginia Highlands Community College, Dr. Wesely Poole, Superintendent, Wythe County Public Schools, Sean McMurray, Executive Director, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia, Patricia VanHoy, Senior Nurse Manager, Mount Rogers Health District, Mark Cruise – Executive Director, Accountable Care Community, and Dr. Michael Puglisi, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, Emory & Henry College.

During the Final Review process, the Applicant presented an overview of the updated proposed SWVA-HEALS Lab School application from the March meeting. At the conclusion of the Applicant’s presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the SWVA-HEALS Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the SWVA-HEALS Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee’s procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the SWVA-HEALS Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- The recruitment processes/program will be open to all students; and
- Support will be provided to all students needed in the rigorous academic program.

George Mason University

The Standing Committee began First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from George Mason University (“GMU”). ACCESS Academy Lab School is a collaborative partnership between GMU, Northern Virginia Community College (“NOVA”), and Fairfax County Public Schools (“FCPS”) (“Applicant”). This partnership will extend multi-institutional pathways from FCPS high schools to both NOVA and GMU, leveraging existing proven programs such as Early Identification Program (EIP), ADVANCE, and wraparound services such as academic advising, success coaching, writing support, and career coaching among other services to reduce the administrative and financial burden associated with college. ACCESS Academy is designed to support the transition of at-risk learners into college and high-demand careers, with a preliminary focus on Information Technology. In addition, ACCESS Academy will incorporate employability skills, innovative teaching and learning methods, and experiences codesigned with industry partners, researchers, and instructional faculty.

Applicant representatives included Dr. Ingrid Guerra-López, Dean of Education at GMU, Christine Carter, Director of Dual Enrollment at GMU, Dr. Kamaljeet Sanghera, Executive Director of the Institute for Digital InnovAtion (IDIA) at George Mason University and Kimberley Daily, Project Manager at GMU, and Loudoun County School partnership members.

At the conclusion of the Applicant’s presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the Paul D Camp Community College Lab School Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the ACCESS Academy Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee’s procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the ACCESS Academy Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- Additional information to achieve the sustainability plan to achieve the \$840,000 per year that must be raised and additional details on local contribution.
- Letters of financial support or commitments such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft and/or Northrup Gruman as partners.
- Additional details on the lab school’s strategy to ensure enrollment is open to all students; and
- Additional information on school meals.

Roanoke College

The Standing Committee began First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from Roanoke College and Salem City Schools (“Applicant”). The Explore @ RC Lab School is a partnership with Salem City Schools and features three career-oriented pathways: Education/Global Studies, STEM/Healthcare, and Communications/Civic Engagement. Courses are inquiry-based and provide dual enrollment credit. Examples of courses include "Introduction to Public Health," "Chemistry and Crime," and "Principles of Education." The program will culminate in a senior capstone course with project-based learning and fieldwork related to the selected Career Pathway. These pathways tie directly into workforce needs in the Roanoke region and will set students up for success in their chosen pathway through academic preparation and real-world learning opportunities. Explore @RC students will have the unique opportunity to experience the critical exposure of class attendance on the RC campus.

Applicant representatives included Dr. Lisa Stoneman, Associate Professor of Education and Department Chair of Education at Roanoke College, Heather Johnson, Director of Academic Grants and Foundations at Roanoke College, Kathy Wolfe, Dean of Roanoke College, and David Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Academic Operations.

At the conclusion of the Applicant’s presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the Roanoke College Lab School Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the Explore @ RC Lab School Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee’s procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the Explore @ RC Lab School Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- Additional information to achieve the sustainability plan to achieve the \$1.2 million per year that must be raised and additional details on local contribution.
- Additional letters of financial support or commitments either from foundations or federal opportunities and/or a letter of support from in the institution for ongoing and enduring support.

Paul D. Camp Community College

The Standing Committee began First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from Paul D. Camp Community College and the Isle of Wight County Public Schools (“Applicant”). The Applicant has developed the Isle Maritime Trades Academy (“IMTA Application”) to provide a high school-to college-to work pipeline in a partnership between Paul D. Camp Community College, Isle of Wight County Public Schools, and initial primary corporate partner, Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding. The overall goal of the IMTA

Lab School is to graduate students who possess in-demand technical and workplace-ready skills for middle skill jobs with NNS and similar employers, and to position students in career-pathways that provide options for advancement with additional education or training.

Applicant representatives included Dr. Core McCray, President, Paul D Camp Community College, Dr. Tara Atkins-Brady, Vice President, Academic and Student Development, Paul D Camp Community College, Dr. Marsha Cale, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development, Isle of Wight County Public Schools, Bill Docalovich, Naval Shipbuilding College, Dr. Toni Johnson, Director of Workforce Development, Paul D Camp Community College.

At the conclusion of the Applicant's presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the Paul D Camp Community College Lab School Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the IMTA Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee's procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the IMTA Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- Including either an updated or final draft Memorandum of Understanding with Isle of Wright County Public Schools to address items such as meals, transportation, special education, extracurricular activities and academic advising.
- A more detailed plan on the use of Virtual Virginia; and
- Updated financials.

Old Dominion University (Newport News)

The Standing Committee began First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University – Newport News in collaboration with Newport News Public Schools ("Applicant"). The Applicant is proposing the Maritime Engineering and Environmental Studies Academy ("MEESA Application"). This lab school will focus heavily on student guided learning through STEM, Experiential Learning, Guided Inquiry, Design Thinking, Career and Technical Education, as well as internships and job shadowing opportunities. MEESA will align with education, research, and innovation efforts at Old Dominion University around Maritime, as well as with the Virginia Digital Maritime Center, an initiative designed to enhance the region's maritime workforce, particularly through digital innovation. The concept is that through student choice and student-led inquiry, there will be an increase in engagement as participants connect real, local issues and jobs to classroom lessons and skills.

Applicant representatives included Dr. Kipp Rogers, Chief Academic Officer at Newport News Public Schools, Dr. Karen L. Sanzo, Old Dominion Professor and Director of the Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab in Newport News, Rob Gies, Deputy Chief Engineer at Huntington Ingalls Industry in Newport News, Dr. Michelle Mitchell, Superintendent, Newport New Public Schools, Toinette Outland Instructional Supervisor, Career and Technical Education, Newport News Public Schools, Tammy Byron, Supervisor of STEM, Newport News Public Schools, Lisa Surles-Law, Chairman, Newport News School Board, and Owen Miller, Acting Assistant City Manager, Newport News.

At the conclusion of the Applicant’s presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the Old Dominion University – Newport News College Lab School Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the MEESA Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee’s procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the MEESA Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- Updated financials to reflect sustainability plans, including local contribution.

Old Dominion University (Chesapeake)

The Standing Committee began First and Final Review of the Laboratory School Application from Old Dominion University - Chesapeake City Schools in collaboration with Oscar Smith Middle School in Chesapeake (“Applicant”). The Applicant is proposing the Computer Science Lab School (“CSLS Application”) designed to prepare students for the technology talent pipeline and to increase the number of K-12 teachers prepared to teach Computer Science in support of that pipeline. CSLS will develop a complete program of study focused on computer science and a regional focus that aligns with workforce needs. In addition to exposure and experience with programming concepts through various coding languages, the prospective program of study will integrate with the current academies in place in Chesapeake.

Applicant representatives include Dr. Karen L. Sanzo, Old Dominion Professor and Director of the Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab in Newport News, Dr. Shonda Pittman-Windham, Director of College and Career Readiness, Chesapeake Public Schools, Dr. Diane Edwards, Chief Academic Officer, Chesapeake Public Schools, Brian Solis, Deputy City Manager/Community Development, City of Chesapeake, Dr. Sampath Jayarathna, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Old Dominion University, Maggie Barber, Associate Dean, Educator Preparation and Assessment, Old Dominion University and Dr. Joanna K. Garner, Executive Director

The Center for Educational Partnerships, Old Dominion University. Gretchen Heal, Vice President of Government Affairs of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce had to leave the meeting but noted her support of the Applicant and the proposed lab school.

At the conclusion of the Applicant's presentation, the Standing Committee members approved First and Final Review of the Old Dominion University – Chesapeake College Lab School Application and instructed the VDOE staff to post the CSLS Application for the attended public comment period in accordance with the Standing Committee's procedures. Any comments received from the public comment review period are to be included in the required reports, application, and attachments to be delivered to the Virginia Board of Education in consideration of the CSLS Application contingent upon clarification and subject to demonstrable statutory compliance of the following areas in the Application prior to presentation to the BOE:

- Letter of commitment and updated financial plan.

The meeting was adjourned.

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Subsection A of § [22.1-349.6](#) of the Code of Virginia states, in part, that “[t]he Board shall 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. . . . The Board’s review procedures shall establish a review committee that may include experts with the operation of similar schools located in other states.”