



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: A

Date: May 6, 2024

Title: Richard Bland College's Globe Academy VDOE Documentation of Complete and Compliant Application

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

Purpose of Presentation

Review of documentation of complete and compliant Laboratory School Application for Richard Bland's Globe Academy, a laboratory school proposal from a collaboration Richard Bland College, the College of William and Mary School of Education, Longwood University, and Petersburg City Public Schools.

Executive Summary

The laboratory school application entitled Richard Bland College's Globe Academy ("RBC Globe Academy Application") was received from Richard Bland College ("Applicants") on June 1, 2023. In accordance with the Laboratory School Application Process, the RBC Globe Academy application was reviewed for completion and compliance by the Application Review Technical Expert Committee, a team of Virginia Department of Education Subject Matter Experts ("VDOE SME"). The goal of the Application Review Technical Expert Committee is to document the needed technical expertise and provide counseling to the Applicants to identify and correct any potential deficiencies in the planning and implementation of the proposed College Partnership Laboratory School, determine compliance with state law or regulation, highlight potential problems or red flags with information contained in the RBC Globe Academy application, and to identify aspects of the proposal that are especially exciting or unique.

Dr. Andy Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Innovation, coordinated the efforts of the VDOE SME team who reviewed the RBC Globe Academy Application for completeness and compliance. The VDOE SME team responsible for reviewing the RBC Globe Academy application was comprised of the following VDOE staff:

- Dr. Andrew Armstrong, Assistant Superintendent
- Claire Bremner, Coordinator of Innovation

- Shawna LeBlond (Office of Licensure and School Leadership)
- Jason Ellis (Office of Accountability)
- Rebecca Askew (Office of Policy)
- Edward Lanza (Office of Budgeting)
- Erin Madden (Office of Policy)
- Melissa Velasquez (Department of Policy and Communications)
- Dr. Samantha Hollins (Department of Special Education and Student Services)
- Dr. Dave Myers (Office of Data, Research and Technology)

Each VDOE SME was provided with the Laboratory School Criteria Checklist Worksheet. Areas of expertise were assigned to various staff subject to their education expertise at the VDOE. A compilation of these comments is included in the Excel spreadsheet entitled VDOE Completeness and Compliance Report (Attachment 2).

VDOE staff provided technical assistance to the RBC Globe Academy team during the development stage prior to submission of their initial application and subsequent revisions preparation for Standing Committee review. Technical assistance calls were held between VDOE and the RBC Globe Academy team on November 3, 2023, and a revised application was received on November 3, 2023. The first round of counseling from VDOE SME review was provided the week of December 1, 2023. The RBC Globe Academy submitted a revised application responsive to SME review on December 13, 2023. An on-site technical assistance visit among the RBC Globe Academy Team, Petersburg City Public Schools leadership, VDOE staff, and the Standing Committee Chair was held on the campus of Richard Bland College on Monday, January 21, 2024. A revised application was received on February 16, 2024, and SME feedback was provided on March 25, 2024. A revised application was received on April 1, 2024 and a budget technical assistance call was held among VDOE, the Governor’s Transformation Office, and RBC Globe Academy leaders on April 10, 2024. A revised budget was submitted on April 23, 2024 and a final application was submitted responsive to suggested edits on April 29, 2024 for completion of this report to the College Partnership Laboratory School Standing Committee (“Standing Committee”). Follow-up feedback has been provided to the Applicants.

The Virginia Laboratory School Initiative is in alignment with [Board of Education Goals from the 2018-2023 Comprehensive Plan](#).

Action Requested

The Standing Committee’s goal for this meeting is First and Final Review of the RBC Globe Academy Application and recommendations on the ability for the RBC Globe Academy Application to be presented/recommended to the Virginia Board of Education at the next scheduled meeting. In addition, the Standing Committee can also provide recommendations for additional Subject Matter Experts or coaching to satisfy Laboratory School statutory requirements for the RBC Globe Academy application.

VDOE Recommendation

The concept of a lab school designed collaboratively with local school divisions to help meet the growing industry need for STEM expertise and expand access to high quality STEAMh education and careers for traditionally underrepresented urban and rural students by Richard Bland College is an innovative and desirable laboratory school program. With the students remaining enrolled in their local school divisions, it appears RBC Globe Academy functions more as a program than a standalone Lab School. This is an acceptable approach to meeting the intent of the lab school concept.

The Applicants responded very well to initial feedback and coaching provided by the VDOE SME team, and provided the additional information requested. The Applicants have options for students including dual enrollment options with a sustainable governance structure, including a sustainable financial model for the operation of the lab school program.

Overall, the VDOE recommends that **Richard Bland College's Globe Academy** is operational and ready to implement.

Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action by the Standing Committee.

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.”