



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: L

Date: June 21, 2024

Title: First and Final Review of Recommendation for Board of Education to Revise Membership Quota for the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning (VACAL)

Presenter: Em Cooper, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Purpose of Presentation

Review/action required by Board of Education bylaws regarding advisory committee appointments.

Executive Summary

On January 25, 2024, action was taken by the Board of Education ("Board") to establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning ("VACAL") to support and advise the Board on expanding and strengthening opportunities and programming for academically or intellectually gifted and advanced students. The membership structure of VACAL is comprised of 22 representatives (1 ex-officio), including regionally diverse stakeholders who provide support and advocacy for access of advanced students across the Commonwealth of Virginia to rigorous learning, opportunities, and pathways which meet their needs and strengthen their outcomes.

On April 25, 2024, 21 nominees were selected and approved to serve on VACAL by the Board. Current feedback from the Board of Education indicates the need for an additional position to serve in the National Expert role. This change will increase the membership in VACAL to 23 representatives, including one ex-officio member. Nominations for the second National Expert role will be solicited through application by the Office of Board Relations and recommendations from the Virginia Department of Education to the Board for three-year appointments.

Thus, VACAL's 23 representatives would be 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: two (2)
- DOE Representative: one (1, ex-officio, non-voting)

Action Requested

First and final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive first review and approve the recommendation to revise the current membership structure of VACAL to include an additional position to serve in the National Expert role.

Rationale for Action

To facilitate the work of VACAL beginning in Fall 2024 and allow ample time to solicit a nomination to fill this additional role, first and final review is requested.

Previous Review or Action

Date: December 12, 2023

Action: [First Review to Establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning](#)

Date: January 25, 2024

Action: [Final Review to Establish the Virginia Advisory Committee for Advanced Learning](#)

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Section 22.1-16 of the Code of Virginia permits the Board of Education to adopt bylaws for its own government.

Article Nine, Section 2 of the Board’s Bylaws addresses, among other matters, the following:

- Advisory committees may be created by the Board for special purposes;

- 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; and
- The Board shall have sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and shall reserve the right to exercise this power at any time.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

No fiscal or staff impact are anticipated.