

MINUTES
Virginia Board of Education
Committee on School and Division Accountability
October 21, 2014; 2 p.m.
Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

Welcome and Opening Comments

The following Board of Education (Board) members were present for the October 21, 2014 Committee on School and Division Accountability meeting: Diane Atkinson; Christian Braunlich; Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr.; James Dillard; Darla Edwards; Winsome Sears; and Joan Wodiska. Dr. Steven Staples, the superintendent of public instruction, was also present.

Mrs. Atkinson, chairman of the committee, convened the meeting and welcomed the Board members and guests.

Approval of Minutes from the September 17, 2014 Meeting

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 17, 2014 committee meeting, the motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by the committee members.

Public Comment

There was no one present who wished to provide public comment.

Memorandum of Understanding as Required of Schools in Accreditation Denied Status for Henrico County Public Schools, Norfolk City Public Schools, Northampton County Public Schools, and Richmond City Public Schools

The presenter for this item was Beverly Rabil, director of the department's office of school improvement. Superintendents and/or staff from Norfolk City Public Schools, Northampton County Public Schools, and Richmond City Public Schools were present.

Mrs. Rabil said the following schools are in *Accreditation Denied* status for the first time in 2014-2015 and are subject to actions prescribed by the Board and affirmed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and the local boards:

Name of Division	Name of Schools in Accreditation Denied
Henrico County	L. Douglas Wilder Middle School
Norfolk City	Campostella Elementary School
Norfolk City	Lake Taylor Middle School
Northampton County	Kiptopeke Elementary School
Richmond City	Fred D. Thompson Middle School

With one exception, those schools, newly identified as *Accreditation Denied*, have also been identified as priority schools or as persistently low-achieving Title I schools in reading-language arts and mathematics combined as defined by the *U.S. Department of Education Flexibility Waiver for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. The one exception is Kiptopeke Elementary School in Northampton.

Mrs. Rabil reported that the MOU for each division was included in the Board packets. She also discussed the responsibilities of the school divisions and the department as specified in the MOU. Board members also raised questions, discussed issues, and made suggestions about other elements they would like to see in the proposed MOU.

Ms. Atkinson thanked the school division representatives for being present today.

(Note: The supporting material for this agenda item can be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2014/10_oct/agenda_items/item_d.pdf.)

Proposed English Language Proficiency Performance Targets for Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) 1 (Progress) and 2 (Proficiency) through 2017-2018 in Virginia's Title III Accountability Plan under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA)

Ms. Veronica Tate, director of the office of program administration and accountability, presented this agenda item with the assistance of Stacy Freeman and Robert Fugate, department staff; and Karie Lane, staff from the Culpeper County school division.

At the September Board meeting Ms. Tate said the Board received for first review the proposed Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for English Language Proficiency Performance Targets required under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*. She said the purpose of today's presentation is to provide responses to questions raised at that meeting. In addition, staff will provide background information designed to help the Board understand the rationale behind the proposal and to explain the proposal in more detail. As part of the presentation, she said they will provide an overview of English language learners in Virginia, review the federal requirement to assess the progress and proficiency of all English language learners, and explain relevant details of the assessment. In addition, Karie Lane will share some thoughts from the school division perspective.

Stacy Freeman shared general information and demographics about Virginia's English language learner population. Robert Fugate addressed the ACCESS for ELLs test, Virginia's English language proficiency assessment. Ms. Tate then provided more information about the make-up of the Title III targets and the process used to establish those targets through 2017-2018. She noted that there may be a dip in performance with the new online test. Targets will be re-set in 2018 based on the data available after two years of administration of the new online ACCESS for ELLs test. Ms. Lane also shared some thoughts about the proposed changes. She noted that the AMAO formula for proficiency does not take into account the LEP level of the students. Language acquisition is a process. She said we know more about English acquisition and the

brain than we have known in years, and we need to take this information and make it work.

Following this presentation, the Board members discussed issues of concern.

(Note: Additional supporting material for this agenda item can be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2014/09_sep/agenda_items/item_d.pdf. Click on [English Language Proficiency Performance Targets](#) for the slide presentation.)

Proposed Plan to Develop an A-F School Grading System in Response to the 2014 Acts of the Assembly

Ms. Shelley Loving-Ryder presented this agenda item. She noted that the Board adopted an A-F school grading system just about this time last year. However, there was legislation in the 2014 General Assembly Session that suggested that the Board consider some changes to that formula. The legislation provided that the Board develop and submit to the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Health a preliminary plan by January 1, 2015.

The 2014 legislation delayed the reporting of school grades required by the 2013 Acts of the Assembly from October 2014 to October 2016. The legislation further directed the Board to consider:

1. The inclusion of additional factors in deriving the school grades, and
2. The provision of multiple grades for each school rather than a single grade in the development of the school grading formula.

As a first step, the requirements of the 2014 legislation would be compared to the A-F school grading formula adopted by the Board in 2013 to determine similarities and differences. The second step would be to do additional research regarding what other states are doing. In addition, department staff would look closely to the potential inclusion of additional data elements, identify those elements that would require the collection of additional information from school divisions, and research their relevance to school quality. Finally, the Board would want to seek some legal advice regarding issues associated with the use of data not maintained by the department. Some of the recommendations in the 2014 legislation reference data not maintained by the department, but reported from the school divisions. The Board would then consult with the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health to determine whether to assign one grade or multiple grades. Once that action occurs, the information gathered would be used to further refine the plan. The legislation also requires the Board to engage stakeholders. Once public comment is received, the school grading system would be finalized by the Board. By October 1, 2016 and each October thereafter, the Board would be required to report grades for each public school.

This item will be on the Board of Education's agenda on Thursday, October 23 for first review with the idea that a report will be provided to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by January 1, 2015.

Discussion by the Board members followed the presentation.

(See http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2014/10_oct/agenda_items/item_e.pdf for supporting material for this agenda item.)

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

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