

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
May 11, 2023

The Board of Education (Board) convened a special meeting on May 11, 2023, in the Board Room, 22nd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219, with the following members present:

Mr. Dan Gecker, President	Dr. Pamela Davis-Vaught-Remote
Ms. Grace Creasey	Dr. Alan Seibert
Mr. Dale Sturdifen-Remote	Mr. Bill Hansen
Ms. Anne Holton	Dr. Lisa Coons, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mr. Andy Rotherham-Remote	

President Gecker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Board members, staff, and visitors to the meeting. President Gecker noted that he approved Dr. Davis-Vaught, Mr. Rotherham, and Mr. Sturdifen’s participation via electronic means.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Gecker asked for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. First Review of Virginia Literacy Act Core Instructional Program Guide

Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Care and Education, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board’s page on the VDOE website](#).

The current recommendations for the Core Instructional Program Guide include eight core curriculum resources that cover either K-3 or K-2. The Program Guide enables school divisions to begin the following:

- Select and implement evidence-based literacy instruction during core instructional programming as defined in the VLA;

- Understand the strengths and challenges of each approved core curriculum to guide purchasing decision and implementation, especially when considering supplemental resources;
- Select the option that best meets the needs of their students, educators and communities; and
- Ensure compliance with the VLA by the 2024-2025 school year as required by the law.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that the Board of Education receive for first review the recommendation for Core Instructional Programs to comply with the VLA.

The Board accepted this item for first review, however, Mr. Rotherham stated that neither he nor his organization undertakes any representative work or work around specific adoption of materials and receives no benefit from any decision, so he has no formal conflict of interest. However, to ensure the highest public confidence in the review and adoption process he will still recuse himself on this issue because his employer does work with providers who are or may in the future be on the approved list.

B. First and Final Review of Recommendations Regarding Literary Fund Loan Applications Approval for Release of Loan Funds (Franklin City Public Schools)

Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

This item requested that the Board approve release of Literary Fund loans requested by Franklin City for roof replacement projects at Franklin High School and S.P. Morton Elementary School. Franklin City is requesting Literary Fund loans in the amount of \$1.0 million for each project payable over 20 years and is eligible for a two percent annual loan interest rate. The project applications are shown in Attachments A and B.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive First Review and approve the release of the Literary Fund loans requested by Franklin City for the Franklin High School and S.P. Morton Elementary School roof replacement projects.

Mr. Hansen made a motion to waive first review and approve the Recommendations Regarding Literary Fund Loan Applications Approval for Release of Loan Funds (Franklin City Public Schools). The motion was seconded by Ms. Creasey. This motion was carried unanimously.

C. First and Final Review of Recommended Grant Awards for School Project Applications Submitted to the School Construction Assistance Program

Kent Dickey, Deputy Superintendent of Budget, Finance, and Operations, presented this item to the Board. The material for this item can be found on [the Board's page on the VDOE website](#).

Under the program, public school construction, additions, or major renovation projects meeting the following three criteria qualify to be submitted to the VDOE for funding: (i) those projects that are either in the local planning phase or already planned as documented in a currently-

approved local Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); (ii) those projects that lack sufficient funding or financing to cover the full cost projected for the project; and (iii) those projects for which construction has not yet started. The Board's guidelines also allow school divisions to submit applications for grant funding for school projects where construction began on or after July 1, 2022.

VDOE staff have reviewed, verified, and scored the criteria data in all submitted grant applications against the competitive scoring criteria, and the rank-ordered scoring totals by school project shown in Attachment 2 are considered final on which to base the grant awards. The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board waive First Review and approve the recommended grant awards for the school projects as shown in Attachment 2. To ensure the highest public confidence, Dr. Seibert stated that he will recuse himself from item C.

Mr. Gecker requested that an appeals process be created for divisions who do not make the cut. Dr. Coons showed support for this recommendation and will send out a Superintendent's Memo to notify applicants of this change.

Ms. Creasey made a motion to waive first review and approve the Recommended Grant Awards for School Project Applications Submitted to the School Construction Assistance Program and mandate a 30-day review period during which time the department will not obligate any of the 84+ million dollars that remain in case someone jumps over the 65% threshold and would therefore be considered entitled to the loan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansen. This motion was carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES – by Board of Education Members and Superintendent of Public Instruction

There was no discussion of current issues.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

There being no further business of the Board, Mr. Gecker adjourned the business meeting at 9:50 a.m.



Mr. Dan Gecker, President