

Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Full Committee Meeting

Patrick Henry Building

West Reading Room

1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

April 13, 2016 – 10:00am – 1:00pm

Attendees

Present Committee Members:

Grace Chung Becker, Kelly Booz, David Bulova, Dabney Carr, Jared Cotton, Kim Dockery, Jenny Sue Flannagan, Deborah Frazier, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Roger Hathaway, Anne Holton, Lillie Jessie, Tara Lateef, Jim LeMunyon, Susan Magliaro, Laurie McCullough, Stewart Roberson, Roxann Robinson, Alan Seibert, Steve Staples, Karen Thomsen, Jeoin Ward, William White, Wade Whitehead, Benjamin Williams, Sanford Williams and Renee Zando.

Creigh Deeds and Chriss Walther-Thomas were present via conference call.

Absent Committee Members:

Shawnrell Blackwell, Jeffrey Bourne, Terri Breeden, Billy Cannaday, Karen Cross, Veronica Donahue, Tag Greason and Brian Matney

Scribe

Stefani Thachik

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Remarks by Secretary of Education**
- **Update from Legislators**
- **Update from Board of Education**

- **Small Group Discussion of High School Redesign**
- **Small Group Report Out and Discussion**
- **Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation**
- **Break/Lunch**
- **Update from Joint Subcommittee**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjournment**

Welcome

- **10:02am** – Dr. Stewart Roberson began the meeting
 - Provided the welcome remarks to the group and thanked the legislators for their work during the recent legislative session. Also, he welcomed Delegate Bulova to the Committee.
 - Congratulated Committee member Wade Whitehead for being named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame
 - Reviewed the Charge to the Committee, backwards mapping of SOL Innovation Committee process, and agenda for the day, as well as the selection process for the newly introduced staggered terms.
 - The Committee held a moment of silence in honor of Senator Miller for the difference he made in his community and in education.

Remarks from the Secretary of Education

- Secretary Anne Holton provided a legislative and budget update for the Committee.
 - Secretary Holton began with a thank you to the Committee and reflected on how decisions made today affect the future of education. The Secretary also thanked Delegate Bulova for joining the committee and Stefani Thachik for staffing the committee.
 - Secretary Holton thanked the Committee for their service reminding the members all would have to apply if they choose to serve again and that the members will continue to work until the end of their term.

- A legislative update was provided, which included: High School Redesign (SB 336/HB 895) which has some amendments; clarification of Board of Education Authority (SB 363); SOL Committee Composition (HB 894) addition of stakeholders and staggered terms; and HB 525 which asks SOL Innovation Committee to make recommendations on high school standardized tests.
- A budget update was provided as education was a top priority. Budget updates included: most money going into flexible funding for school divisions (\$193.7M), new money (\$17.6M) for At Risk Add-On, \$34.4M for Cost to Compete, \$750,000 for high school innovation grants, \$1.1 M for computer science training for teachers, \$5M for credentialing and equipment for career and tech education, \$5M for Computer Adaptive Testing which will certify tests, \$1.1 M for Breakfast after the Bell, and \$4.6M for Early Childhood Grants, \$2.9M for VPI, additional money for K-12 teacher salary increase and additional funding for teacher requirement.
- Secretary Holton also talked about how the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind will change how we assess students and the Board of Education is looking boldly into the process, which is intertwined with the redesign of high school. While the Committee got the ball rolling by providing recommendations and guidance, the Board will drive the implementation. The Committee will have the opportunity to give input today and there will be additional opportunities in the future for public input.

Update from Legislators

- Update provided by legislators:
 - Delegate LeMunyon discussed the legislators will be returning next Wednesday to discuss amendments and vetoes. He pointed out the budget passed by a lot, as the focus on education helped.
 - Delegate Bulova discussed his work on the Education Innovation Committee and talked about how they took a leap of faith with high school redesign. The subcommittee was willing to pass the high school redesign because there was a good group to steer the process. A lot of good conversation was held surrounding high school redesign and other education topics. He thanked the Committee and asked members to continue to provide advice.

- Delegate Robinson mentioned HB66 which established a New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Fund and Program as this should be considered along with high school redesign and a lot of funding is being provided.
- Delegate Ward discussed Miller's bill to designate time for physical activity to help students move around, which did pass this year.
- Senator Creigh Deeds discussed the history of the SOLs as citizens expressed concern that students were learning rote memorization instead of how to think critically. Senator Miller heard voters in 2007 and focused on reforming the SOLs a few years later by garnering more bipartisan support. He congratulated the Committee on their on-going work and stressed that public education in the most important work and investment.

Update from the Board of Education

- Diane Atkinson provided the update from the Board of Education.
 - She provided update on the report card, standards of accreditation and high school graduation requirements. At the April meeting, those who received high school innovation grants will attend to discuss what in regulations stands in their way.
 - Diane introduced two working drafts (available in Dropbox) for which the Board is seeking feedback: Profile of a Graduate Schematic and Recommendations for Graduation Requirements in support of Profile of a Graduate.
 - Various stakeholders will provide feedback. Higher Education stakeholders will attend meeting to share what they are looking for in admissions and in successful graduates. The Board will also hold a retreat in May.

Small Group Discussion of High School Redesign

- Diane Atkinson asked the Committee to take a few minutes to review the two documents presented. The Committee was then split into four small groups to discuss four questions (available in Dropbox), which included:
 - What is already being done in high schools that aligns well with the Profile of a Graduate?

- What key changes are needed to improve the alignment of the high school experience in helping students to make successful transitions to life beyond high school?
- What supports are needed for teachers, students, schools, and central offices to make implementation of the “Profile of a Graduate” achievable across all high schools in Virginia?
- Are there any additional things we should add to the Profile of a Graduate that are important for successful adult life but not already noted in the DRAFT Profile?

Small Group Report Out and Discussion

- Diane Atkinson facilitated the small group discussion.
- In response to what is already being done in high schools that aligns well with the Profile of a Graduate:
 - The groups discussed some schools have plans and articulated profiles, such as Henry County, elementary and middle schools have regional assessments, having the Profile woven into the standards, reviewing standards to allow room for depth, importance of time, looking at non-negotiables, issues with students finishing math and science early in high school and forgetting these subjects by college, the economics/personal finance course, existing vocational schools, and the system is currently strong on content knowledge, but inconsistent in dealing with the other pillars listed.
- For question two, the key changes needed to improve alignment:
 - The groups discussed the need to focus on more career pathways; the possibility of mandating community service; career panels that indicate importance of problem solving, independence, and critical thinking, and needing time for true electives; reminder that not all students are college bound; the plan must be flexible to allow multiple entry/reentry points; assess with authentic tasks; and make sure students in the fine arts aren't lost. The group also discussed how high school redesign will require middle school and elementary school redesign, reforming standards, checking existing SOLs for relevancy to existing careers, and providing a link to curriculum for foundations for science, better integration of college and career prep with a focus on “life-ready individual;” and rethinking the current model which chunks curriculum into courses and credits.

- The third question was, “What supports are needed for teachers, students, schools, and central offices to make implementation of the “Profile of a Graduate” achievable across all high schools in Virginia?”
 - The groups discussed: needing more school counselors; needing more professional development to understand the change; caution not to rush implementation; partnerships with workforce available to all students regardless of region; staffing as it takes a lot of time to set up internships; financial support; a common language and definitions among partners; making sure the systems are aligned and not operating under two different systems; encouraging learning systems that take risks; changing teacher evaluations, and teaching students autonomy by giving teachers autonomy.
- The final question the groups reflected on was “Are there any additional things we should add to the Profile of a Graduate that are important for successful adult life but not already noted in the Draft Profile?”
 - The group discussed the Committee’s recommendation of 5 Cs, the addition of environmental literacy, and the importance of volunteering.

Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation

- Dr. Lynn Sodat, Acting Director of Program Administration and Accountability for the Department of Education provided an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The PowerPoint can be found in the Committee Dropbox.
 - Dr. Sodat’s presentation included an overview and history of ESSA, unintended consequences of NCLB, improvements to the accountability system, transition timeline, ESEA Flexibility, ESSA Implementation details, ESSA Requirements, State-designed index of indicators, subgroup accountability, report card requirements, statewide assessment requirements, school improvement, and ESSA grants.
 - The Committee asked questions regarding AMOs, subgroup reporting, clarification of “Other Title 1 not identified” and opportunities to interact and learn from other states.

Break/Lunch

- After a 10 minute break, Stewart Roberson concluded lunch and introduced Dr. Laurie McCullough and Dr. Kim Dockery.

Update from Joint Subcommittee

- Dr. Laurie McCullough and Dr. Kim Dockery provided an update from the joint subcommittee, which included a discussion of the group's final report on the New Virginia Framework for Students (located in Dropbox).
 - Laurie began by thanking the joint subcommittee for their work over break. She also thanked the writing team and Ben Williams and his colleague for their help with the graphic.
 - Laurie discussed the purpose of the document was to take the work and build it out into a system, as the four innovation drivers have to move together to work. While the document is lengthy, it illustrates the point that it is all part of a system and the system must move together or risk of failure is high.
 - Kim discussed how the document is coming at the right time with the authorization of ESSA and what is going on currently. She discussed the four innovation drivers: standards and instruction; assessment; accountability; and professional excellence. The document also includes a timeline which illustrates development takes time.
 - The document will be taken to and presented to the Board of Education at the end of May.

Public Comment

- Steve Cunningham spoke to the Committee with a focus on restructuring high school and the Profile of a Graduate. A copy of his remarks can be found in the online Dropbox.
 - Steve discussed how restructure high school is important, as we shift from knowledge to core skills. We should reduce the reliance on standardized tests and teaching to the test, instead focusing on promoting the culture of the 5 Cs. Time should be a variable instead of a constant and the focus should be on individual student progress. He discussed the need for accountability measures to occur locally and that student report cards should be changed to reflect content and skills. He suggested changing the culture through the use of Covey's program or a new program locally, stressing that success is not always quantitative. He suggested tracking

student progress one year after graduation. He concluded his comments by thanking the committee.

Next Steps

- Next Full Committee Meeting Date:
June 22, 2016, from 10:00am – 1:00pm
- The Committee was reminded of May 6, 2016 deadline for applications to continue serving as a member of the Committee.

Adjournment

- Dr. Stewart Roberson closed the meeting out at 1:00pm.