

Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Full Committee Meeting

Patrick Henry Building

West Reading Room

1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

June 22, 2016 – 10:00am – 1:00pm

Attendees

Present Committee Members:

Grace Chung Becker, Kelly Booz, Jenny Sue Flannagan, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Anne Holton, Lillie Jessie, Susan Magliaro, Stewart Roberson, Roxann Robinson, Alan Seibert, Steve Staples, Jeion Ward, William White, Benjamin Williams, Sanford Williams, Renee Zando, Veronica Donahue, Tag Greason and Brian Matney.

Karen Thomsen and Tara Lateef were present via conference call.

Absent Committee Members:

Shawnrell Blackwell, Jeffrey Bourne, Terri Breeden, David Bulova, Billy Cannaday, Karen Cross, Jared Cotton, Deborah Frazier, Kim Dockery, Roger Hathaway, Wade Whitehead, Laurie McCullough, Dabney Carr, Karen Cross, Jim LeMunyon, and Creigh Deeds

Scribe

Maggie Chambers

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Remarks by Secretary of Education**
- **Update from Board of Education; Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation**
- **Small Group Discussion of High School Redesign**
- **Small Group Report Out and Discussion**

- **Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation**
- **Break/Lunch**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjournment**

Welcome

- **10:16am** – Dr. Stewart Roberson began the meeting
 - He provided the welcome remarks to the group and thanked committee staff & leadership for their work supporting the Committee these last two years.
 - He reflected on the action that the Committee has made over its first term.

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 for all of their hard work, and thanked the legislative members for their efforts.
 - She updated the committee on bill signings, which have been taking place across Virginia on many issues relevant to the Committee, including High School Redesign and CTE, computer science, and PE in schools.
 - She updated the committee on the SOL Innovation Committee selections. She noted that the governor wants a delicate balance between continuity and engaging new members of Virginia. She hopes that current membership will continue to engage with the work of the Committee. She had thought of doing the next committee meeting on July 21st, but they will be adjusting the time or date due to the Joint Subcommittee on the Future of Public Education's committee meeting earlier that day.

Update from the Board of Education

- Dr. Steven Staples provided the update from the Board of Education.
 - He explained that the Board was at the Challenged Schools Conference, so he would be speaking for them.
 - The State Board is working on multiple tracks simultaneously, and hoping that they all align and work in concert. Those tracks are Profile of a Graduate, High School Redesign, and ESSA/ State Accountability. The Board will host public meetings in Williamsburg, Lynchburg, Abingdon, and Manassas throughout July and August to discuss these topics. They are very actively engaged in all of their work. As they say, “Not managing what we have, but defining what we need.”

Presentation by Dr. Staples

- Dr. Steve Staples presented on the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the Every Student Succeeds Act. The presentation described the knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences students need to attain in K-12 education to be “life-ready.” There are four key components to VA students being “life-ready”: content knowledge, workplace skills, community & civic responsibility, and career planning. In addition to this new goal, the Board is also considering changes to graduation requirements. The changes will allow for more flexibility in the second half of high school which will hopefully translate into students receiving real world experiences.
- In order to back up the point of the need for high school redesign, he presented data on the post-secondary academic success and struggles of VA high school students.
- The other aspects of the presentation included discussion of a timeline of next steps, the key aspects of the State Accountability Plan, and the acknowledgement that ESSA must be implemented by 2017.
- Del. Greason expressed concern about reforming accountability while giving students credit for the new standards. Sec. Holton mentioned the BOE’s proposals concerning verified credits. Sen. McPike mentioned specific concerns about chronic absenteeism.
- The presentation can be found in the committee dropbox. (review committee dropbox for meeting notes)

Visit by Governor

- Reviewed accomplishments and thanked the Committee for their work

Small Group Discussion of HS Redesign & ESSA

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- Group discussion sharing “aha” moments:
 - Group 1: what is the board’s professional development plan? This is a big concern and it’s moving very fast. Also very nice to see state’s data on what happens to students once they graduate, so can individual school divisions get this data?
 - Group 2: Supportive of the continuous improvement plan for all school divisions, and doesn’t want school divisions to be doing two plans – one for them and one for the state. Also really want support for school divisions to develop innovative programs to help incentivize and excite students. This will take a lot of professional development.
 - Group 3: Talked about testing and the SOL assessments. If there are fewer tests, we should have better tests. Talked about the idea of credits and how they need to be changed in order for us to personalized education for each student. Some concern about the balance between technology and manual computation.
 - Group 4: Talked about 2 pieces of legislation – the workforce credentialing bill and GO Virginia. Both are looking at analyzing regional skill sets, but K12 was left out of that. It will be the K12 teachers that will be teaching this early on. Really liked the attendance piece. There has to be a lot of flexibility in this and writing/communications skills are critical for our students.

Next Steps discussion- led by Sec. Holton

- Charge to think about what’s next, and parting shots for the next committee. The group also discussed the HB525 mandate, and testing alternatives, especially for children with disabilities and ELL.
- It is necessary to make sure teachers are prepared and engaged with these changes. There is a need for more professional development in ESSA/high school redesign implementation. There needs to be an understanding of how this works with teacher accountability. One member emphasized staying out of the weeds of the issue which the committee is unable to address—the need for real-time information which teachers need about their school and their classroom. There is no conceived mechanism to address this. Another member was concerned about teacher input— don’t want teachers to view these regulations as just “another thing” they have to do. She was also concerned about the timeline for ESSA, and stressed the importance of writing and communications. One member suggested having a panel of teachers to talking about the tangible and intangible impacts of SOLs on them and their classes – perhaps another panel of students as well.

Communication was a common theme. One member emphasized paying careful attention to how this information is delivered to superintendents, parents, the community, etc. Determining how to get that info to parents is critical. We also need to better engage with smaller, underrepresented groups.

- **Discussion of HB525 and testing**

- One member suggested providing substitutionary tests for children with disabilities and ELL. He emphasized the need for flexibility and compromise. Another member mentioned that these proposed substitutionary tests count toward accreditation, especially for high-achieving students. Another member saw this as an opportunity to address the actual standards and stress bigger ideas to personalize instruction for children. He wants to move away from being confined to credits and grade levels— looking at the whole structure of the standards. Another member commented that students have to teach themselves a chapter or two to prepare for the SOL or the SAT – make the tests more workforce based. Questions/content that is more practical. Another member brought up similar thoughts. She wants to make sure the questions are more practical. Do students know how to use the information? There is a real need to have a lot of people who are the practitioners who know how to design a test, write questions. The final testing comment was that there is a need to make sure that those subjects where tests have been reduced that those alternative assessments are working and effective.

Public Comments

- Steve Cunningham—40 years as a teacher/principal – discussed the Profile of a Virginia Graduate and the high school redesign – monitoring student needs is necessary – would like the committee to consider the cultural change in high schools that must occur – the larger problem will be moving veteran teachers from the way they did things to recognizing the 5 C’s. Recognized the need for additional time for professional development – discussed the need to dramatically change the culture of a school, which is incredibly difficult.

Reflection by Dr. Roberson

- He reflected on all the things the Committee has done: subcommittees, guest speakers, student and higher-ed panels, “taming the pendulum,” HS Redesign, Committee staff, bill signings, substantive value of public comment, informal meetings. By his estimates, the Committee has met 21 hours, subcommittees 54

hours, 75 hours per person of meetings for each committee member, not including driving.