

# **Standards of Learning Innovation Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Joint Subcommittee Meeting

Online

February 29, 2016 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

## **Attendees**

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### **Present Committee Members:**

Dr. Billy Cannaday, Dabney Carr, Dr. Jared Cotton, Dr. Kim Dockery, Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan, Deborah Frazier, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Dr. Laurie McCullough, Dr. Stewart Roberson, Dr. Alan Seibert, Dr. Steve Staples, Karen Thomsen, Dr. Chriss Walther-Thomas, Bill White, Wade Whitehead, Ben Williams, and Renee Zando.

### **Absent Committee Members:**

Shawnrell Blackwell, Kelly Booz, Karen Cross, Dr. Roger Hathaway, Dr. Tara Lateef, Anne Holton, Dr. Sue Magliaro, and Dr. Brian Matney.

## **Scribe**

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Stefani Thachik

## **Agenda**

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- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **College and Career Readiness Briefing**
- **AASA “Redefining Ready” Initiative Briefing**
- **New Virginia Framework Document Discussion**
- **Test Cut-Off Discussion**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjournment**

## Welcome and Updates

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- **11:00am** – Laurie McCullough introduced the group to the Adobe Connect online platform and provided for an overview for today’s meetings.
  - Laurie listed the names of the joint subcommittee members and members of the public that were in attendance.

## College and Career Readiness Briefing

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- Dr. Kim Dockery provided an overview of the College and Career Readiness meeting that was hosted by the Department of Education.
  - Kim described this as an inspiring process meeting in which the group worked on alignment and backwards mapping.
  - Dr. Steve Staples shared this will be one of many meetings which will seek input from multiple groups.

## AASA “Redefining Ready” Initiative Briefing

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- Dr. Jared Cotton provided an overview of The School’s Superintendent Association’s “Redefining Ready” (<http://www.redefiningready.org/>).
  - The initiative takes several measures into consideration to make sure high school students are college ready, career ready, and life ready. Indicators for each can be found on the online website.
  - The group discussed “Redefining Ready” as a powerful statement which is affirming of the Committee’s current work.

## New Virginia Framework Document Discussion

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- Dr. Kim Dockery provided a background on the current draft of the New Virginia Framework document (available in the Committee Dropbox) with the plan to discuss the document based on each innovative driver.

- The overall document is still a draft and needs consistency in voice and format. It is important to remember the purpose of the document, as well as the purpose of other reports from the Committee as we want to strike a balance and make sure the report portrays an accurate picture of the work, without being too detailed. The group should consider where to put additional items that may not belong in this current document.
- Kim described the document as a 3D document that provides a framework that seeks to provide a comprehensive picture, while being careful not to become a lengthy document.
- Laurie provided an overview on the process as the document becomes revised it would get approval from the joint committees before going to the steering committee and the full committee.
- Kim started the discussion by describing the overall graphic and the Virginia Graduate.
  - Discussion from the committee members included whether Virginia graduates should be ready in all three areas (college, career and citizenship); the overlap in college and career readiness measures, the meaning of ‘citizenship ready,’ rebranding the SOLs, attracting and retaining teachers, and reworking the image of the graphic.
- Kim and Jared moved the group forward to discuss the innovation driver of standards and instruction.
  - The group discussed the perception of the SOL as a test rather than as standards, professional development, the importance of keeping a rigorous curriculum, short term change and long-term planning.
- Kim and Jared began the discussion on the innovative driver of assessment.
  - The group discussed the placeholder graphic, the importance of many kinds of assessments, concerns about social studies testing, the use of for-profit corporations, issues with scoring and resources needed, technology enhanced items, and current examples of locations utilizing multiple assessments.
- Laurie led the discussion on the third innovative driver, accountability, which is pulled from the subcommittee’s previous work.
  - Committee members discussed the current status of the state dashboard, the need to show school is a sum of many things, and the multi-year accreditation process.
- Kim and Jared discussed the final innovative driver, supports for teachers and schools.

- Committee members discussed language used in the recommendations, attracting and retaining teachers, sharing best practices, communication strategies for the public, MOUs, teacher evaluations, Every Student Succeeds Act, and the current evaluation process.
- Finally, the discussion concluded with the implications of a New Virginia Framework.
  - The purpose of the document is to focus on long-term and systemic issues. Overall, the Committee felt this was a great start for sparking innovation and capturing the Committee's work. The committee would like to add to this section a paragraph about issues and needs that require further work and are not addressed in the current document, like teacher evaluation.
  - Overall suggestions include incorporating more emphasis on human capital and how the document incorporates new ESSA guidelines. Next steps for the document were discussed which include turning it back into a Google Document for additional Committee feedback and finalizing a draft for feedback from the steering committee and the full Committee.

## Test Cut-Off Discussion

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- Jared explained that test cut-off times came up during the previous legislative update call for Committee members as we seek to shorten tests.
  - Laurie created a poll for Committee members to answer whether they felt a test cut-off time should be established. The poll resulted in a tie with seven members saying yes and 7 members stating no.
  - The Committee discussed current length of testing time, norm-referenced tests vs. criterion-reference tests, stress levels of students, experience of high school students, concern over teacher evaluations and school accreditation being connected to test cut-off times, the number of students who take extreme times to complete test.
  - Wade felt the concern was not whether tests should be timed, but that we're asking questions about every standard.
  - Alan, Ben and Laurie discussed whether this would be a short term fix. Laurie discussed concern that while SOL tests should be shorter, in the future we may use performance assessments that are authentic, multi-day tests.
- The topic of test cut-off times will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

## Next Steps

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- The joint subcommittee will continue to work on the New Framework document.
  - The document will be posted in Google format to allow for subcommittee members to continue offering feedback.
  - The document will be sent to the steering committee by March 11 for their feedback.
  - Subcommittee members interested in helping with document revisions should contact Laurie McCullough and Kim Dockery.
- The next full committee meeting will be on April 13, 2016 from 10:00am-1:00pm in-person at the Patrick Henry Building.

## Adjournment

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- **1:00pm** – Meeting was adjourned by Laurie McCullough.