

Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Full Committee Meeting

Library of Virginia

800 E. Broad Street, Richmond

October 9, 2018

Attendees

Present Committee Members:

Dr. Robert Benson, Dr. Valerie Bowman, Delegate Bulova, Michael Davidson, Delegate Glenn Davis, Pamela Davis, Laura Feichtinger-McGrath, Linda Grubba, Heather Hurley, Linda Hyslop, Keesha Jackson-Muir, Jim Livingston, Laurie McCullough, Senator Jeremy McPike, Dr. Pat Murphy, Ting-Yi Oei, Dalia Palchik, Jennifer Parish, Todd Putney, Dr. Stewart Roberson, Charles Ronco, Gary Simms, Dr. Bobby Shockley, Melany Stowe, Delegate Jeion Ward

Absent Committee Members:

Dr. Donna Alexander, Dr. Francisco Durán, Delegate Steven Landes, Senator Ryan McDougle, Senator Steve Newman, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Zuzana Steen, Nancy Sweat

Staff Present: Secretary Atif Qarni, State Superintendent Dr. James Lane, Holly Coy, Cynthia Cave, Gena Keller, Diamond Clark, Maura Pratt, Chidi Uche

Welcome

At 10:07AM Secretary Qarni welcomed returning members and new members to the group, and thanked legislative representatives for attending. He emphasized that while divisions implement recent changes such as high school redesign, the SOL Innovation Committee has the opportunity to move the bar forward and embark upon their next charge which is deeper learning.

The Secretary briefly introduced some of the Governor's priorities: improving quality and access to early childhood, promoting excellence and equity in all schools, building meaningful pathways from classroom to the workplace, and increasing access to higher education and improving completion rates.

Secretary Qarni highlighted how deeper learning aligns with 'Excellence and Equity in all Schools'. He cited examples of STEM integration in a modernized curriculum and implementing computer science into standards as ways that we can address deeper learning. The Secretary

reminded new members that they were chosen because of their personal and professional backgrounds and skills and encouraged them to bring those experiences to this work.

Introductions & History of SOL Innovation Committee

At 10:20AM Chairman Stewart Roberson welcomed new and returning members and thanked everyone for their commitment to make long-lasting and meaningful change in education. He articulated the accomplishments of the Committee to date:

- The collective work of the whole group and subgroups significantly addressed A, B, and C of the charge which has driven schools to modernize the assessment and reduce the reliance on traditional tests while still holding schools accountable.
- Since 2014, there have been more than 40 recommendations that have been addressed, accepted, and embraced by the BOE, the Governor's office, and the Secretary of Education's office.

Chairman Roberson acknowledged that since A, B, & C have received substantial attention the Committee will monitor the success of those recommendations but also move forward and think about innovative teaching in the classroom. Going forward the Committee can address and elevate capacity and support the needs of teachers, students, and families. He mentioned that the Committee can anticipate that there may be policy barriers and that they should consider:

- How must instruction, our SOLs, and PD supports for practitioners, change to truly and fully implement the intent behind the profile of a grad and the 5C's?
- What competencies do these leaders need to be equipped with to effectuate this change?
- How do these changes interact with, drive, or influence school improvement efforts?
- How can we support efforts to use more effective assessments?
- How can we tier appropriate changes so that K-8 students know where they are headed in a workforce pipeline?

Role of the SOL Innovation Committee Member

Chairman Roberson continued to engage new and returning members by having a dialogue and exchange about the role of the Committee member and what each member brings to this work: passion, knowledge, and skill. Committee members discussed how they feel they can best help in making change and returning members shared some of the highlights from their experience on the Committee thus far. Chairman Roberson affirmed that each member is a volunteer and they are here in an advisory role to make recommendations and then let the political process enact change.

Some members shared the following sentiments before the group participated in a team icebreaker.

- Be encouraged and engaged ... take the opportunity to do this hands-on work. Lean in a bit and seize the opportunity to make sure that what goes into the next report includes each member's voice.
- Several members supported the notion of breaking into subcommittees to do deep dives in this work.
- Dare to be bold [in your thinking]!

Presentation on Deeper Learning

At 11:30AM Dr. James Lane, State Superintendent of Public Instruction impressed on everyone that having a great education is essential to the American dream and deeper learning is what Profile of a Graduate is founded upon. He then introduced Gena Keller who presented on deeper learning. The main takeaways from deeper learning:

- The goal is that students are able to challenge themselves, think critically, engage with one another in collaboration, and apply their content knowledge.
- 21st century skills are critical for students as they prepare for the future workplace. These skillsets are needed for a lifetime.
- Give all students an opportunity to feel that they are part of a community and that they are applying their learning to the world around them.
- There is an opportunity in Virginia to shift our practice and thinking about what should be happening in the classroom. It is important to remain cognizant of equity as this shift happens.

What is the DOE doing to support these systems and practices?

- Revising the standards to ensure that the 5C's are embedded. For example, demonstrate skills for historic thinking or responsible citizenship by analyzing primary and secondary sources.
- Include performance assessments and identify how to assess creativity or citizenship to ensure students are making progress in this area.
- Engage with educators to discuss the "why" behind integration of these new teaching practices and how to create these opportunities for students in small communities.
- Promote social and emotional learning which is critical to student achievement.
- Provide specific support for students with special needs and their families in school.

Gena also shared information about DOE's Profile of a Virginia Educator and Leader which aims to identify what experiences, knowledge and skills Virginia's educators and education leaders need in order to teach, learn, and lead in a changing world. She also shared information

about Profile of a Virginia Classroom which aims to invite and support innovation in classrooms.

At noon the Committee broke for lunch

Deeper Learning in Action

At 12:24 PM Dr. Roberson introduced Dr. Steve Geyer, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction in Goochland County. Goochland teacher presenters included Erin Yearout-Patton, Government teacher; Jennifer Gates, 4th grade teacher; James Frago, History Teacher

These Goochland teachers shared their experience with deeper learning and gave examples of what it looks, sounds, and feels like when these types of teaching practices are utilized in the classroom. Their experience demonstrated that deeper learning is transferrable and can be integrated everywhere, whether in a small or large division, rural, urban, etc.

Deeper Learning does not look the same in every classroom and could be anything from using augmented reality to work-based learning opportunities and project-based learning. These opportunities should start in elementary school and should follow students until graduation.

- 6 ingredients that have set the stage for Goochland to have the success.
 - Vision: Maximize the potential of every learner. We must provide for every student whether they are living in poverty, students with special needs, or those who need accelerated opportunities. Growth measures are critical.
 - Philosophy: Every student should be highly engaged in their *school* experience. In Goochland, the school experience is not exclusively the academic experience.
 - Priorities: Prioritize individual growth over broad achievement.
 - Instruction: Balanced Assessment = Balanced Instruction. If we want students to have the knowledge and skills to be successful in life, then it has to take place through balanced instruction. In the era of SOLs and the move towards performance-based assessments, schools can measure the most pertinent student progress.
 - Personnel – The educators working with our students are **the most** critical component. For example, divisions must find teachers who fit well into their school community, and have consistency and consensus among educators on how students should learn and teachers should teach.
 - Leadership – What holds the previous 5 ‘ingredients’ together is Leadership. What do we want our leadership to look like – what legacy can a leader leave once they have moved on?

Redesigning the quality education requires taking risks, being flexible, creative, and engaged. The Goochland team stressed the freedom that deeper learning has afforded them. It allows them

to stretch students beyond what the tests were requiring of them. Additionally, vertical relationships between teachers from different grade levels and content areas has created a space and place where engaging curriculum and learning experiences are cultivated.

The following questions were posed from Committee members:

- How do we encourage this type of leadership from the state-level?
- How do we motivate and retain teachers who are making this type of a difference in our classrooms and who are experts in their field?
- How do we align training and recruitment of teachers with this type of teaching and best practice?
- How do we guarantee success of students with this model of teaching and learning?

Public Comment

Chairman Roberson opened the meeting up to Public Comment at 1:13 PM – No public Comment

Conclusion

At 1:14 PM Chairman Roberson gave a homework assignment to the Committee to send in any questions in regards to the role of the committee member. Additionally, on the topic of deeper learning, Chairman Roberson requested that members send in suggestions, further questions, or points of inquiry that will help the steering committee build future agendas.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm