

Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Full Committee Meeting

West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building

November 6, 2014 1:00-4:00pm

Attendees

Present Committee Members:

Secretary Anne Holton , Dr. Stewart Roberson, Dr. Steve Staples, Grace Chung Becker, Dr. Shawnrell Blackwell, Dabney Carr, Karen Cross, Dr. Kim Paddison Dockery, Veronica Donahue, Deborah Frazier, Delegate Tag Greason, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Dr. Roger Hathaway, Lillie Jessie, Delegate Rob Krupicka, Dr. Tara Lateef, Dr. Susan Magliaro, Dr. Brian Matney, Dr. Laurie McCullough, Senator John Miller, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Dr. Alan Seibert, Karen Thomsen, Dr. Chriss Walther-Thomas, Delegate Jeion Ward, Dr. William White, Wade Whitehead, Ben Williams, Renee Zando

Kelly Booz, Dr. Jared Cotton, Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan, and Delegate Jim LeMunyon were present via conference call.

Absent Committee Members:

Senator Creigh Deeds

Scribe

Eric Steigleder/Lisa Jackson

Agenda

- **Welcome/Review of Committee Charge**
- **Presentation of Interim Recommendations**
- **Update from the Board of Education**

- **Updates from Legislators**
- **Google Hangout Update**
- **Break**
- **Public Comment**
- **Further Discussion of Interim Recommendations and Actions**
- **Goochland County Public Schools Presentation**
- **Comments from the Governor**
- **Accountability 2.0**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjournment**

Welcome/Review of Committee Charge

- **1:05pm** – Stewart Roberson (Chair of Committee) called meeting to order and gave welcome remarks to the committee.
 - Recognized delegates and senators in attendance at the meeting
 - Provided thanks to the Committee and those who have assisted with the work of the Committee.
- Stewart provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.
- Stewart provided the Committee with a reminder of the Charge to the Committee as outlined by the legislation.
- Stewart overviewed the backward mapping.
 - Progress from each stage of the Committees work was reviewed.

Presentation of Interim Recommendations

- Stewart presented the most recent edition of the Interim Recommendations.
 - Explained that the yellow highlighting represented editing, word changes, or additions that had occurred since the last meeting via teleconference.
 - Explained to the Committee that there would be an executive summary created as the final document that would contain draft beliefs, principles, and recommendations.

- Shelley Loving-Ryder presented on Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) (Powerpoint can be found in Dropbox, under “Information from Meetings” in the “Full Body Meeting 11_06_14” folder).
 - Shelley discussed the advantages and costs associated with CAT.
- Committee members discussed specific concerns, gave feedback, and asked questions about the feasibility of the test, the need for read-alouds, retesting options, and the tests use of memorization versus critical thinking.
 - Senator Miller questioned whether further expansion of the CAT system would enable the system to get away from memorization and move toward critical thinking.
 - Committee member asked for feedback of the new testing system after the first round of spring rollouts.

Update from the Board of Education

- Diane Atkinson provided an update from the Board of Education, standing in place of Chris Braunlich.
 - Diane discussed the demographic changes in the Commonwealth and the lack of resources available for all districts due to the recession.
 - Discussed the revisions to the Standards of Accreditation that were adopted at the BOE Retreat.
 - Explained that the Board is interested in reevaluating the accreditation system, a way to report and reflect what/how schools are doing

Updates from Legislators

- Delegate Greason discussed the upcoming legislative session and what the committee should expect.
 - Delegate Greason explained to the Committee that all 12 recommendations may not be passed but will be considered during the session.
 - Reminded the Committee that the work does not stop at this interim report, more input will be needed once the recommendations are put forth.
- Senator Miller discussed the constraints of the budget, the influence of election season, mental health needs, and concentration on Medicaid as having influence on the recommendations going into the General Assembly.
- Delegate Krupicka discussed the importance of bipartisan support for education and the fiscal issues facing the state.

- Discussed the importance that needs to be placed on childcare and Pre-K issues.
- Delegate Ward discussed a potential study with a co-patron surrounding attrition of teachers.
- Delegate Robinson discussed her appreciation for the great work the Committee has done, and recognized that the community has taken notice of the proposed changes.
 - Stressed the need to not place added burden to the localities.
 - Echoed the message of being cautious of budgetary constraints.
- Delegate LeMunyon (via conference call) discussed the process that would occur from the time of the meeting until the session.
 - Suggested the Committee determine what needed to be legislative changes and what could be changed administratively.
 - Discussed the importance of having a document to the General Assembly in the next 2-3 weeks to receive priority and attention.
 - Reminded Committee that each legislator will be allowed a 15 bill limit for the 2015 session.

Google Hangout Update

- Secretary Holton began by thanking the Committee for its hardwork.
- Presented the top issues addressed during the Google Hangout with the 6 schools/locales which included:
 - Need for faster results, Constant test prep starting first day of school, Pressure placed on students by teachers, Being able to have options during the writing SOL, More advanced coursework for college prep, More relatable/real life topics, More flexibility in courses, and Technological issues.
- Deborah Frazier commented on how students want paper test because they are unfamiliar with the technology, need for more technology and practice.
- Karen Cross provided Committee with a copy of student response from Virginia Middle/High School (can be found on Dropbox account).
- Lillie Jessie expressed gratitude for Google Hangout, and expressed the importance of student feedback.
- Alan Seibert on how students want paper tests, clarifying that students in Salem were referring to their preference for more meaningful and engaging problem-solving assessments, not merely paper versions of multiple choice tests.

- Wade Whitehead commented that students want to have hands-on devices (i.e. ruler) to perform tasks because that is what they are familiar with.

Break

- 2:29pm – Stewart called for a 10 minute break.

Public Comment

- Bill Portlock from The No Child Left Inside Coalition/Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 - Written comment posted in the Dropbox account.
- David Ellena, Principal of Tomahawk Middle School proposed elimination of all standardized assessment not required by federal law, expressed his support of expedited retakes.
- Freeda Cathcart from Let Teachers Teach proposed a name change to the assessment system. Proposed change to GOAL (Guidelines of Academic Learning). Emphasized the increased need for teacher and parent education.
- Beverly Jurenko from the Fairfax County Council PTA proposed three new recommendations.
 - Written comment posed in the Dropbox account.
- Sandra Barnstead from Virginia Education Association and former math teacher shared her perspective of testing as a former teacher. Echoed David Ellena proposal of ended all standardized testing not required by federal law.
- Delegate Krupicka questioned whether it would be feasible to end all non-federally mandated tests. Concerned with available resources to create alternative assessments for districts that are lacking.
- David Ellena suggested that the ideas would not be cost prohibitive if districts were able to share ideas.
- Karen Cross expressed that her school has developed alternative assessments.
- Laurie McCollough suggested that schools who are not ready to develop alternative assessment could use their current systems to accomplish this goal.

Further Discussion of Interim Recommendations and Actions

- Brian Matney moved to approve the Interim Recommendation document.

- Meg Gruber seconded the motion.
- There was a quorum present during the vote.
- Floor was opened for discussion.
 - Meg Gruber questioned whether the Committee knew what needed to be legislation opposed to what needed to be administrative action.
 - Kim Dockery suggested that we include language that makes clear that this is only the beginning of the work being done by the Committee.
 - Secretary Holton explained that the next steps of the process would be fluid and that different groups would pursue different recommendations.
 - Alan Seibert expressed his approval of document, asked for a glossary to be attached to the document, as well as an Executive Summary.
 - Chriss Walther-Thomas expressed the need to revise Preamble – bullet point 4. Suggested adding “school administrators.”
 - Wade Whitehead suggested that instead of specifying “teacher” or “school administrator,” maybe use a broader term such as “educator.”
 - Grace Chung Becker suggested the “provisionally accredited” language to be consistent with past regulations around accreditation.
 - Kim Dockery asked for clarification of a portion of Recommendation 6: “Recommend that the Board of Education establish guidelines to ensure that the quality of curriculum is maintained.” Asked for a definition and clarification of “growth measures” within the document.
 - Stewart Roberson asked for a vote, there was a unanimous vote for acceptance of the document.

Next Steps

- Next Steps was moved up in the agenda due to anticipation of Governor Skype call.
- Stewart Roberson explained that there would not be a full committee meeting again until March 2015.
- Discussed the possibility of sub-committee meetings before the March 2015 meeting.

Comments from the Governor

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- Governor Terry McAuliffe called into the meeting via Skype.
 - Governor McAuliffe thanked the committee for its work.
 - He discussed that importance of the recommendations being put forward to the General Assembly and Board of Education,
 - He discussed the importance of having a working class that could fill jobs that are being created in the Commonwealth.
 - He discussed his work with bringing in new businesses into Virginia to provide for the economy.
 - Dabney Carr presented a question to Governor McAuliffe – “What role would you like to see this Committee play going into the future?”
 - Governor McAuliffe spoke about economic issues facing Virginia, reminded the Committee that the work being done is more than just changing tests but to also reform the education system to prepare students for the future.

Goochland County Public Schools Presentation

- Moved in the agenda due to Governor Comments.
- Dr. James Lane, Superintendent of Goochland County Public Schools, and Stephen Geyer, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction presented on the innovative practices of their district. (Presentation can be found in the Dropbox account).
 - Discussed that Balanced Assessment allows teachers to be creative and make more time for instruction.
 - Explained that there is a place for achievement tests, however, they do not allow for growth measures.
 - Discussed the importance of balancing the system with performance assessments, growth measures, benchmark tests, and formative assessments.
- Delegate Krupicka expressed his concern of school districts not having the capacity for such assessments.

Accountability 2.0

- Stewart Roberson discussed the creation of a third subcommittee to look at the bigger picture and to discuss the next generation of Virginia's accountability system.
 - Once formed, the subcommittee will meet prior to the March 2015 full committee meeting.
- Stewart invited members of the Committee to join and asked members to let Lisa Jackson know of their interest by next Friday.

Adjournment

- **4:12pm** – Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Roberson.