



Open Education Subcommittee
October 15, 2008 10:00 am
Speaker's Conference Room, 6th Floor GAB

- **Call to order:** Chairman's welcome.

Senator Watkins called the meeting to order.

Bob Seivert, Director, eProcurement Bureau, addressed the subcommittee on eVA, the Commonwealth's electronic procurement system. Mr. Seivert stated that textbook publishers are not currently using eVA, but he is beginning a new initiative to bring them into the system.

- **Staff Update:** Staff will review the responses to a survey distributed to local school boards.

Staff reviewed the responses to the survey sent to all local school boards in the Commonwealth. The results are available on the JCOTS website at <http://jcots.state.va.us>. After reviewing the responses Senator Watkins requested staff to work with DOE on providing reciprocity for local textbook adoptions. For example, if Henrico performs a local adoption and adopts a specific textbook, Senator Watkins would like to see other localities be permitted to adopt the same book without performing their own adoption. The subcommittee supported this proposal and Michelle Vucci, DOE, indicated that this type of reciprocity would be considered in the upcoming review of the textbook adoption regulations.

Delegate Peace requested staff to compile a list of all localities responding to the survey and plot their locations on a map.

- **James Batterson, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Technology:** Mr. Batterson will provide the subcommittee with an update on the Commonwealth's partnership with CK-12 to create a physics flexbook.

James Batterson informed the subcommittee that the development of the physics "flexbook" is already underway and he expects to have a first draft prepared for review by February of 2009. Mr. Batterson also stated that the project has already attracted over 10 partners that will help develop content and review materials.

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- **Wendy Colby and Joe Small, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing**

Company: Via teleconference Wendy Colby and Joe Small will be reviewing recent developments in education technology and content delivery.

Wendy Colby and Joe Small joined the meeting via teleconference and presented on the development of new education technologies at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing (HMH). Mrs. Colby began by introducing the Learning Village, an online content management product purchased by Georgia. The content management system allows teachers to upload content from any source. Mrs. Colby stated that the contract with Georgia was for the entire state but HMH would be willing to work with individual school boards. The cost for the system, however, would decrease with a state-wide purchase. HMH also indicated that they are moving to dividing content into smaller packages, very similar to the iPod model.

Senator Watkins asked what the Commonwealth needs to do to advance new technologies like the Learning Village. HMH responded that leading states have specific adoption provisions relating to electronic materials and have established in-service teacher training opportunities to help educate teachers on how to successfully implement new technologies and content management systems in the classroom.

- **Staff review of legislative proposals:** Staff will review two revised legislative proposals offered by the Virginia Open Education Foundation.

Staff reviewed the two legislative proposals before the subcommittee: a bill establishing open education centers at community colleges and a resolution requesting the Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage the use of Creative Commons licenses by teachers in K-12 public schools. Staff reviewed research developed by the DOE and reported that the Commonwealth does not currently have a comprehensive written list of copyright policies for works created by state employees. Staff recommended that the resolution not be recommended to JCOTS given the lack of clear copyright guidance from the executive branch. Senator Watkins directed staff to work with the DOE and the Office of the Attorney General to develop any legislation needed to clarify the copyright policies of the Commonwealth regarding artistic works created by state employees during the course of their employment.

The subcommittee discussed the proposal to establish open education centers at community colleges in the Commonwealth. Senator Watkins requested staff to work with the Virginia Open Education Foundation to develop any final changes to the draft and prepare the bill for review by JCOTS at the final meeting of the 2008 Interim.

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- **Open Discussion**
- **Public comment:** Members of the public will be given the opportunity to comment on the work of the Open Education Subcommittee.
- **Adjourn.**