

HJR 25 2006

Science, Math, and Technology Education in the Commonwealth at the Elementary, Secondary, and Undergraduate Levels

10/25/07 Meeting Summary

The HJR 25 Joint Subcommittee studying STEM education in the Commonwealth held its third meeting of the 2007 Interim at Mountain View Elementary School on October 25, 2007. During the meeting, members of the joint subcommittee and members of the public viewed, and participated, in an education outreach program sponsored by Micron Technologies. The program involved four Micron employees teaching students about the different states of matter and a process known as sublimation, which is the transformation of a solid to a gas.

After viewing the Micron lessons, members of the joint subcommittee were able to view a math class utilizing the investigations math process. During the lesson, students were learning how to add doubles, such as 64 and 64, using several different procedures. After an introduction by the teacher, students were then able to participate in three different activities to help reinforce the material.

George Cushman, Executive Director, Hispanic Youth Symposium (HYS), provided the first presentation during the formal portion of the meeting. Mr. Cushman reviewed his organizations effort to encourage Hispanic students to enter college. Using a cultural centric approach, HYS is achieving a 90% retention level in college for the students that participate in their program. Of the students entering college, Mr. Cushman identified 40% that were majoring in a STEM related field. For more information please see Mr. Cushman's presentation posted on the HJR 25 website- <http://dls.state.va.us/TechEd.htm>

Dr. Cannaday, Superintendent of Public Instruction, led the final discussion of the day with an overview of current and proposed initiatives at the DOE to promote STEM education. Dr. Cannaday's remarks can be accessed on the HJR 25 website.

Dr. Cannaday identified three particular efforts directly applicable to the work of the HJR 25 joint subcommittee. First, Dr. Cannaday discussed the DOE's efforts in enabling high school students to seek industry certifications. By allowing students to pursue these certifications while attending school. The benefit to students comes not only through achieving a valuable certification, but also witnessing first-hand the applicability of the skills they are learning in school. Second, Dr. Cannaday discussed efforts underway to establish technical diplomas that would allow students to achieve a higher level diploma in career and technical education fields. Finally, Dr. Cannaday discussed the Governor's \$500,000 grant from the National Governor's Association to establish Career and Technical Academies and stressed the need to continue to promote career and technical education programs to provide the needed pipeline of technicians and technologists for the Commonwealth's high-tech industries.

Delegate Cosgrove concluded the meeting outlining a final list of recommendation compiled by staff. Delegate Cosgrove requested that staff send out a draft list of recommendations for the members of the joint subcommittee to review and return comments to staff by Friday November 9th. Staff will then compile all edits and send out a final list of recommendations. Members of the joint subcommittee will rank their top five choices and select an additional unranked five choices by Friday November 16th. Staff will then compile one final document to be delivered to all members and made available to the public on Monday November 19th. The joint subcommittee will review the results at its final meeting in late November (exact date is currently TBA).