Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Elementary and Secondary Education in the Commonwealth

Subcommittee status reports

September 20, 2017

House Room 1

The Capitol

Legislative history and mission of the Committee

- HJ 112 (Landes) and SJ 85 (Deeds) (2016).
- Focus:
  - SOQs.
  - Educational technology.
  - Emerging and future issues in public education.
- Purpose:
  - In-depth review of proposed legislation.
  - Deliberate, thoughtful, coordinated, and year-round approach to legislative education reform.

Committee Membership

1. Delegate Landes, chairman.
2. Delegate Bagby.
3. Delegate R.P. Bell.
4. Delegate Dudenhefer.
5. Delegate Greason.
6. Delegate Hester.
7. Delegate Robinson.

1. Senator Newman, vice-chairman.
2. Senator Black.
3. Senator Cosgrove.
4. Senator Favola.
5. Senator Locke.
6. Senator Suetterlein.

Subcommittee structure and membership

#1: Virtual Learning & Educational Technology

1. Chairman: Delegate Bell.
2. Vice chairman: Senator Suetterlein.
3. Delegate Dudenhefer.
4. Senator Cosgrove.
5. Sandy Harrington, VML.
6. Brian Maddox, Henrico Co. Public Schools (VACO).
7. Joe Showker, Rockingham Co. Public Schools (retired).

#2: School Leadership & Student Outcomes

1. Chairwoman: Senator Favola.
2. Vice chairwoman: Delegate Robinson.
3. Delegate Hester.
4. Senator Black.
5. Jim Baldwin, VAESP.
6. Randy Barrack, VASSP.
7. Eric Bond, Augusta Co. Public Schools.
8. Tom Smith, VASS.

#3: SOA, SOL, and SOQ revisions

1. Chairman: Senator Newman.
2. Vice chairman: Delegate Landes.
3. Delegate Bagby.
4. Delegate Greason.
5. Senator Locke.
6. Cindy Cave, DOE.
7. Holly Coy, SOL Innovation.
8. Bill Kidd, VSBA.
9. Eric Bond, Augusta Co. Public Schools.

Subcommittee #1
Virtual Learning and Educational Technology

- Two interim meetings (July 17 and September 11).
- One additional interim meeting (October 30).
- Two areas of focus:
  - Access to electronic textbooks and adequate connectivity.
    - SB 1335 (2017).
      - Barrier: cost to localities to implement.

Subcommittee #1
Virtual Learning and Educational Technology

- Expanding virtual education.
  - Virginia and U.S. History virtual course (WHRO Education).
  - Virtual Loudoun.
  - York County Virtual Learning.
  - K12 Inc.
  - Emerging themes for successful programs:
    - Strong, rigorous course content.
    - High degree of student-teacher interactivity.
    - High degree of parental involvement.
    - Not for every student.
    - Generally strong student assessment outcomes.
    - Growing student enrollment.
    - Funding limitations.

Subcommittee #2
School Leadership & Student Outcomes

- Two interim meetings (June 15 and September 14).
- One additional interim meeting (late October).
- Four areas of focus:
  - Coordinated approach to school health legislation.
    - SB 1500 (Favola).
      - Establishes school health advisory board.

Subcommittee #2
School Leadership & Student Outcomes

- Improving student outcomes.
  - Corina Coronel, Carlin Springs Elementary (Arlington).
  - Hamish Brewer, Occoquan Elementary and Fred Lynn Middle (Prince William County).
  - Emerging themes for successful schools:
    - Common mission, vision, goals and buy-in at all levels (leadership, teachers, students, parents, etc.)
    - Building school community and identity.
    - Engaging parents and community stakeholders.
    - Emphasizing personalized learning.
    - Utilizing evidence-based instructional practices.
    - Setting high expectations.
    - Limiting excuses.

Subcommittee #2
School Leadership & Student Outcomes

- Addressing teacher shortages.
  - Experts:
    - Delegate Adams and Dr. Mark Jones, Division Superintendent, Pittsylvania.
    - Dr. Staples, DOE.
    - Ms. Burcher, VEA.
    - Dr. Scott Bray, University of Richmond's Graduate Education program.

Subcommittee #2
School Leadership & Student Outcomes

- Addressing teacher shortages, continued.
  - Challenges:
    - Declining enrollment in teacher preparation programs and growing student populations.
    - Licensure requirements (e.g. testing).
    - Perceived lack of prestige and abundance of career alternatives.
    - Student loan debt.
    - Low pay (compounded by LCI formula in some school divisions).
    - Lack of on-the-job support and training (mentorship, professional development).
    - Job dissatisfaction and low morale.
    - Lack of diversity in the workforce.
  - Potential solutions:
    - Scholarships.
    - Loan forgiveness.
    - Higher pay.
    - Adjustments to LCI formula.
    - Grow your own programs.
    - Teaching fellowships or residencies.
    - Teacher induction.
    - Mentorship.
    - Amend licensure requirements.

Subcommittee #2
School Leadership & Student Outcomes

- Improving professional development for principals.
  - Dr. DiPaola and Dr. Colley, SURN Principal Academy (W&M).
  - Keys to successful principal professional development:
    - Ongoing.
    - Job-embedded.
    - Helps develop deep knowledge of instructional practices.
    - Includes frequent observation of teachers in the classroom.
    - Includes meaningful, supportive feedback to teachers.
    - Goal is to make the principal the leader of the formative process for teachers.

Subcommittee #3
SOA, SOL, and SOQ revisions

- Two interim meetings (July 24 and September 20).
- One additional interim meeting (November 13).
- Areas of focus:
  - Student assessment.
    - Ms. McCullough, SOL Innovation Committee's assessment subcommittee.
      - Balancing meaningful assessment with student learning.
    - Development and use of performance assessments.
  - High school redesign.
    - High school innovation pilots.
  - Every Student Succeeds Act.
  - Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation.

Committee resources

Committee website:

http://dls.virginia.gov/interim_studies_PublicEdu.html