

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ F. _____

Date: _____ April 24, 2008 _____

Topic: Report from the Board of Education's 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee

Presenters: Mrs. Isis M. Castro and Mrs. Eleanor B. Saslaw, Members of the Board of Education and Sponsors of the Student Advisory Committee

Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by
 State or federal law or regulation
 Board of Education regulation
 Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting

Action requested at future meeting:

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action:
date: February 21, 2008
action: Preliminary report on focus areas

Background Information: Members of the 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee were selected from more than 160 nominations received in November 2007 from public middle and high schools across the state. Each public middle school and high school was eligible to nominate one student for consideration. Statewide student organizations were also invited to submit nominees. The nominees completed an application packet that included letters of recommendation and essays.

Representatives of the Board of Education reviewed all applications and selected the new members according to Board of Education policy. The membership of the Student Advisory Committee is set forth in Article X of the Board of Education's bylaws. Of the 12 members of the Student Advisory Committee, one high school student is selected from each of the Department of Education's eight Superintendents' Study Group regions, and four middle school students are selected at-large (see attached membership list).

During the first committee meeting in December 2007, the members of the Student Advisory Committee discussed a broad spectrum of issues and concerns for students in the public schools across the state. From this discussion, the committee members selected three topics for in-depth study and divided into small work groups focused on the three topics. At the committee's second meeting on February 20, 2008, the members continued their discussions and formulated preliminary findings. At the February 21st Board of Education meeting, the members of the Student Advisory Committee presented a summary of the topics selected for in-depth study. During the committee meeting on April 23, 2008, the members discussed their findings and drafted final recommendations to be presented to the Board of Education on April 24th.

Summary of Major Elements: The students identified three priority issues for further study. On April 24th, the students will present final recommendations for Board of Education consideration and future action. The three areas of focus are as follows:

Issue: Effective Integration of Technology into the Curriculum

Anna Akers-Pecht, The Governor's School of Southside Virginia, Brunswick County
Patrick Curtis, William Fleming High School, Roanoke City Public Schools
Nitin Nainami, Chickahominy Middle School, Hanover County Public Schools
Sandra Suhling, North Stafford High School, Stafford County Public Schools

Issue: Building Positive Student/Faculty Relationships and Communication

Shannon Farrow, Ni River Middle School, Spotsylvania County Public Schools
Corinna Pan, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Fairfax County Public Schools
Sean Poppen, Greenbrier Middle School, Chesapeake City Public Schools
Brielle Spencer, Heritage High School, Lynchburg City Public Schools

Issue: Enhance the Promotion and Communication of Opportunities to Students of State Funded Programs

Christy Darling, Atlee High School, Hanover County Public Schools
Daniel Jang, River Bend Middle School, Loudoun County Public Schools
Andrew Proffitt, John S. Battle High School, Washington County Public Schools
Hannah Wagner, Western Branch High School, Chesapeake City Public Schools

Superintendent's Recommendation: N/A

Impact on Resources: Department of Education funds are used to support the work of the Student Advisory Committee by reimbursing for travel and other expenses related to the committee's meetings.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Following receipt of the final report and recommendations of the 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee, the Board of Education will set a timetable for follow-up actions and discussions.

Members of the 2007-2008 Student Advisory Committee

Anna E. Akers-Pecht
The Governor's School of Southside Virginia
200 Daniel Road
Keysville, VA 23947

Patrick C. Curtis
William Fleming High School
3649 Ferncliff Avenue, NW
Roanoke, VA 24017

Christina (Christy) E. Darling
Atlee High School
9414 Atlee Station Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Shannon E. Farrow
Ni River Middle School
11632 Catharpin Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Yon K. (Daniel) Jang
River Bend Middle School
46240 Algonkian Parkway
Sterling, VA 20165

Nitin R. Nainani
Chickahominy Middle School
9450 Atlee Station Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Corinna L. Pan
Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology
6560 Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

Sean R. Poppen
Greenbrier Middle School
1016 Greenbrier Parkway
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Andrew (Drew) L. Proffitt
John S. Battle High School
21264 Battle Hill Drive
Bristol, VA 24202

Brielle T. Spencer
Heritage High School
3020 Wards Ferry Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Sandra (Sandy) E. Suhling
North Stafford High School
839 Garrisonville Road
Stafford, VA 22554

Hannah L. Wagner
Western Branch High School
1968 Bruin Place
Chesapeake, VA 23321