

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: I.

Date: May 21, 2008

**Topic:** Action Required to Continue the Process of Consolidating the Two Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

**Presenter:** Mr. H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services

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**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: May 30, 2007

Action: The Board of Education took action to enter into a conventional design contract and construction manager at risk contract to plan and design the consolidation of the two schools and to transfer the students, programs and services from the Hampton program to a single campus at Staunton.

**Background Information:**

Beginning with the 2003 General Assembly, several tasks have been assigned to the Department of Education, the Board of Education or the Department of General Services (DGS) to plan needed activities for the consolidation of the two state schools for the deaf and the blind into a single school program. The most recent actions of the Board were directed by the 2007 and 2008 sessions of the General Assembly.

### 2007 General Assembly

The Department of Education was directed to “assist with the coordination with appropriate local entities for the transition of services to a regional day program in the Hampton Roads area by no later than June 30, 2008.” During the past year, the Department of Education initiated multiple efforts to establish a viable regional program for the VSDBM-H with local entities. However, no local entity was able to meet the requirements set forth in the Appropriation Act of 2007 and, therefore, the Hampton program will not continue as a campus-based regional day program for the 2008-2009 year. While students will not be served on campus, those returning to their school divisions will be served through an outreach program based at the current facility.

The outreach program will provide a variety of services that may include teaching, consultation, staff development, resource identification, and related services. Students whose families previously stated interest in a regional day program retain the option of being served at the VSDB-Staunton.

### 2008 General Assembly

The 2008 General Assembly, through HB/SB 5001 (Bond Bill), stated “That notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, no proceeds shall be distributed for the construction and renovation project at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in the City of Staunton, and no costs shall be incurred for this project until the Board of Education takes substantial action to permanently terminate all state-operated programs at the Virginia School for the Deaf, the Blind, and the Multi-Disabled in the City of Hampton, including all state-operated or state funded residential and day program services delivered for deaf, blind and multi-disabled students.” HB/SB 5001 further stated that the “property at the Virginia School for the Deaf, the Blind and Multi-disabled in the City of Hampton shall become surplus property as of July 1, 2009.”

### **Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve a resolution to terminate all state-operated programs at the Virginia School for the Deaf, the Blind, and the Multi-Disabled in the City of Hampton, including all state-operated or state funded residential and day program services delivered for deaf, blind and multi-disabled students as of June 30, 2009.

### **Impact on Resources:**

Funding is provided for the Hampton program and may be used for, but is not limited to, personnel, necessary upkeep to the facility, and student placement expenditures associated with consolidation of the two schools. The appropriation must be administered by the Department of Education (Title 22.1, Chapter 19, Code of Virginia).

### **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The Department of Education will work with staff of the two state schools, local school divisions, and families of students currently enrolled at VSDBM-H to effect the transition described herein. Progress reports will be provided to the Board of Education.

Terminating State-Operated Programs at the Virginia School for the Deaf, the Blind and  
the Multi-Disabled at Hampton

Resolution Number 2008 –  
May 21, 2008

Pursuant to House Bill/Senate Bill 5001, passed by the 2008 General Assembly, the Board of Education shall terminate all state-operated programs at the Virginia School for the Deaf, the Blind, and the Multi-Disabled in the City of Hampton, including all state-operated or state funded residential and day programs services delivered for deaf, blind, and multi-disabled students as of June 30, 2008.