

Student Advisory Board Meeting

December 13, 2023

Patrick Henry Building, Secretary of the Commonwealth Conference Room

1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

Advisory Board Members: Sarah Byman, Abubakkar Rahim, Yordanose Moges, Rafael Ibanez, Lance Toapanta, Arrow Brooks, Preston Riddle, Elizabeth Cobb

Advisory Board Members In-Person: Abubakkar Rahim, Arrow Brooks

Advisory Board Members Online: Sarah Byman, Yordanose Moges, Rafael Ibanez, Lance Toapanta, Preston Riddle, Elizabeth Cobb

Governor's Office In Attendance: Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera, Deputy Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent, Assistant Secretary of Education Justine Talor-Raymond, Senior Assistant Attorney Deborah Love, Special Assistant Aly Buckner

Meeting Minutes:

- 5:02 p.m. Call to Order
Introductions, brief discussion of Board members' interests
- 5:17 p.m. Closed Session Legal Counsel
- 5:52 p.m. Public Session Reconvenes
Discussion (detailed below)
- 6:34 p.m. Meeting adjourned
Board discussed steps moving forward, including research into personal interests within education and future meetings in February, and possibly March before the final presentation in April. Members discussed taking the oath of office and their commission documents.

Key Topics of Discussion:

The discussion centered around student Board members' particular passion areas within education. Members expressed interest in a variety of topics, including:

- Opportunities for advanced students and invigorating the classroom with rigorous coursework for more advanced students
- Expanding coursework into career and technical education to uplift students who may be struggling with traditional coursework
- Opportunities for students to attend whichever school best fits their needs, including private school
- Focus on teachers and how they can maximize student engagement
- Establishing teaching guidelines to increase teacher-student engagement and limit coursework overload outside of the classroom
- Opportunities for homeschool students to participate in extracurricular activities and resources