

2023 Legislative Agenda

November 10, 2022

Helen Dunn

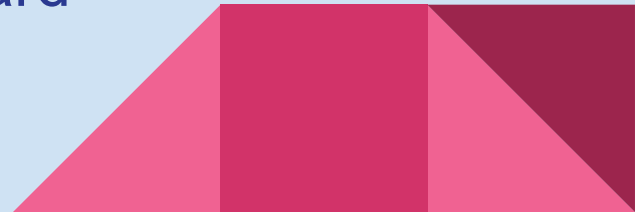
Purpose and Goals

Purpose:

The annual Legislative Agenda articulates the School Board's legislative priorities and positions on key policy issues to state legislators.

Tonight's goal:

To receive input and direction from the Board



Timeline

- **November 10: Information to Board**
- **Next steps: Meetings with legislators**



Considerations

- **Virginia General Assembly in session on January 11, 2023 (short session, 30 days)**
- **House Education Chair: Glenn Davis (R, Virginia Beach)**
- **Senate Education Chair: Louise Lucas (D, Portsmouth)**

***House Courts of Justice Chair: Rob Bell (R, Charlottesville)**

***Senate Judiciary Committee Co-Chair: Creigh Deeds (D, Charlottesville)**



Legislative Agenda Items

- Hiring practices
- Local taxing authority
- Meetings of public bodies
- Onboarding bus drivers
- Swatting
- Transgender and gender-expansive model policies



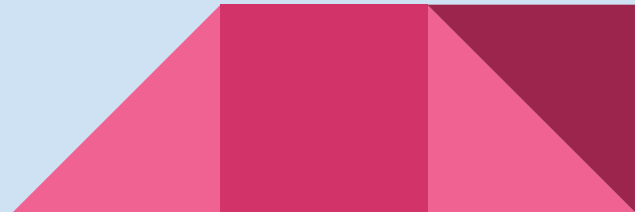
HIRING PRACTICES

- Support of updated background checks in hiring
 - Currently, the state requires that fingerprinting through Virginia's Central Criminal Record Exchange, but the federal government and other U.S. states have valid fingerprinting services.
 - This change would allow us to hire virtual teachers in some of our more difficult hiring areas without requiring them to travel to Virginia only for the purposes of going through the fingerprint process.
- Support of expediting getting new hires to work
 - When the Virginia State Police find that a background check is "clean," it takes 48 hours or less to get that result, which is visible online.
 - If something shows up on the background report, however, it will show up as "pending" online and that report must be sent on paper through the mail. That generally takes from 20-30 days, though no timeframe is given to the employer.
 - This can contribute to loss of income for the employee and create a negative start the employee-employer relationship. This is a problem across the state, and allowing other methods of delivering this information would ease some related difficulties.

LOCAL TAXING AUTHORITY

Support of local taxing authority: would make Albemarle County eligible to levy an additional 1% retail sales tax for the purpose of funding school division capital projects

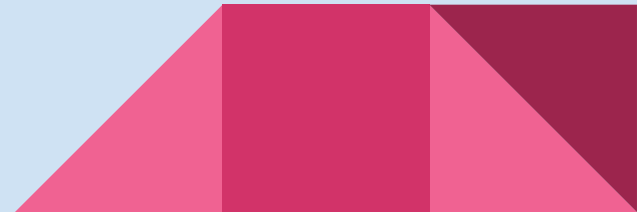
- Generating this revenue for the Commonwealth's 95 counties to match authority already available to its 39 cities would make it possible for school divisions to respond to the growing capacity needs in their already-overcrowded school facilities.



MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES

Support of expanded authority to conduct electronic communication meetings

- This would include the removal of limitations on the remote participation of members, as well as flexibility in how to fulfill mandates for required legal notices for certain public hearings and meetings.



ONBOARDING BUS DRIVERS

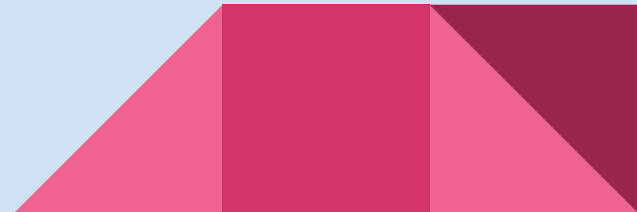
Support of shortening length of VRS break-in-service requirements

- During the 2020 General Assembly session, our delegation graciously supported legislation ([HB351](#) and [SB 324](#)) that allowed for bus drivers to be added to the Department of Education's [critical shortage list](#).
- This list allows retirees from Virginia Retirement System-covered positions to return to work in critical shortage positions in Virginia while continuing to receive their retirement benefits.
- These [critical shortage positions](#) require a break in service of at least 12 consecutive months between the retiree's retirement date and the date the retiree wishes to work in a critical shortage position. Many potential employees cite this required break in service as a deterrent for them taking advantage of the program.

SWATTING

Support of legislation to counteract “swatting”

- We are in favor of adding legislation that provides law enforcement with additional tools to combat the act of making a hoax communication to 9-1-1 (or to a private citizen, who communicates with 9-1-1) reporting an immediate threat to human life with the intent of triggering an immediate and significant law enforcement response, usually involving a SWAT team (known as “swatting.”).



TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-EXPANSIVE MODEL POLICIES

Support of revised VDOE proposed 2022 “Model Policies on the Privacy, Dignity and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia’s Public Schools”

- We are asking that this be done in consultation with local school divisions, and to support locally elected school boards.
 - It is the Commonwealth’s constitutional responsibility to provide **all** students with a safe and engaging public education, one that unleashes their highest personal development potential.
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