Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: E. Date: January 11, 2006

Topic: First Review of Timeline for the Review and Approval of Revised Foreign Language Standards of Learning

Presenter: Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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Origin:

___ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by

X State or federal law or regulation

___ Board of Education regulation

___ Other: __________

X Action requested at this meeting ___ Action requested at future meeting: _________ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

X No previous board review/action

___ Previous review/action

date ____________________

action ____________________

Background Information:
The Board of Education adopted a schedule for review and revisions to the Standards of Learning at its September 28, 2000, meeting. Accordingly, the foreign language standards are scheduled for revision in 2007.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1-2 By October 1, 2000, the Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis.

Summary of Major Elements
Using an established review process and criteria, the Department of Education plans a review of the current Foreign Language Standards of Learning. A proposed timeline is attached.
Superintendent's Recommendation:
The Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and grant approval for the Department of Education to proceed with the revision process for the Foreign Language Standards of Learning.

Impact on Resources:
The Department of Education administers the state standards review process. The agency’s existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:
Upon approval, the Department of Education will provide information to all interested parties according to the attached timeline.
PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF
THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE STANDARDS OF LEARNING

February 2006  A Superintendent’s Memorandum is distributed that:
• announces the schedule of the review process;
• announces the availability of a Standards of Learning review/comment page on the Department of Education Web site;
• requests that division superintendents share information about the Web site with instructional staff; and
• requests that division superintendents submit nominations for review team members.

The Department of Education posts on its Web site a Standards of Learning review/comment page for the 2000 Foreign Language Standards of Learning. The page will be active for 30 days.

April 2006  The Department of Education aggregates and conducts a preliminary analysis of the comments entered on the Web page.

July-August 2006  The Standards of Learning review team meets for two days to:
• analyze statewide Web page input;
• review national documents and reports as necessary; and
• make recommendations for potential changes.

August 2006  The Department of Education prepares the review team’s comments in a draft.

September 2006  The Department of Education and the steering committee (a subgroup of the review team) meet to discuss and review the draft Foreign Language Standards of Learning for first review by the Board of Education.

October 2006  The Department of Education presents the draft document to the board for first review.

November 2006  The proposed Standards of Learning document is distributed for public comment. The document is placed on the Virginia Department of Education Web site for review.

January 2007  Public hearings are held as prescribed by the Board of Education.

February 2007  The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed Foreign Language Standards of Learning to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education Web site within three weeks of adoption.

April 2007  Printed copies of the approved Foreign Language Standards of Learning are distributed to 6-12 schools and local school division central offices.