



# BOARD OF VISITORS

THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND  
P.O. BOX 2069  
STAUNTON, VA 24402-2069

Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.  
Board Chairman

Board of Visitors  
June 30, 2011  
Minutes

Senator Hanger called the meeting to order and welcomed Senator Patsy Ticer from Alexandria as the Senate representative for the eastern part of the state.

**Members present:** Senator Hanger, Senator Ticer, Delegate Bell, Delegate Landes, Virgil Cook, John Pleasants, Rachel Bavister, Alice Frick, H. Diane Sandidge, Jane McNeil, and Donna Gateley.

**Members absent:** none

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion that the minutes from the March meeting be accepted as written. Rachel Bavister had several corrections: Reword two sentences about the Staunton Public Library to better reflect information given, change libel to liable, correct verb tense after the word "Board", change "verbal vote" to "voice vote" for each time used, "infant program" needs "parent", capitalize Education in Department of Education, add year (2011) to date under Annual Plan Part B, change "period" to "periods", Under Expansion of Outreach: needs to be made clear that the Parent/Infant Program is not the only outreach program at VSDB. Delegate Landes MOVED to adopt minutes with corrections as stated. The motion was SECONDED by Donna Gateley. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**VITA Update:** Dr. Armstrong opened the discussion drawing attention to the article in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. VSDB has been trying to work out a solution with VITA to no avail. VSDB has pointed out that a school should not be "in-scope" to the VITA system; no other schools in the state are covered by VITA. VSDB has many special assistive technology requirements to meet the needs of hearing impaired and visually impaired students and this technology cannot be covered by the scope of VITA. In order to address the rising cost of maintaining the school under the VITA contract the number of computers in the school and dorms will be reduced and the remaining computers will be consolidated into lab rooms to be used by students and staff.

An open discussion followed. Concern was expressed about the teachers not having computers in their classrooms, what the cost will be to replace computers and the time frame for this to take place. What happened to the \$350,000.00 that was requested to help with the IT bill? The response to these inquiries was that it will be a slow process rebuilding the computer network that cannot start until the school is officially "out-of-scope" to VITA. If VSDB were to buy new or used computers (surplus from the Department of General Services), place them on the desks and hook them up to the network, VITA would still bill VSDB hook-up fees. VSDB received \$160,122.00 of the \$350,000.00 requested from the Department of Planning and Budget. This money helped to cover the existing VITA bill. It is uncertain if there will be any money available to purchase additional computers. A Board Member asked to clarify the positions of Sam Nixon and Mr. Duffey. Jim Duffey is the Virginia Secretary of Technology and Sam Nixon is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of VITA. A Board Member wanted clarification on how VITA upgraded the computers. When a computer is upgraded, the hardware is not changed, only the software. Board Members stressed their concern over the computer shortage with the start of school quickly approaching. John Pleasants informed the Board that he had received a phone call from a concerned parent over the article in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. It is still the Board of Visitors consensus to separate the school from VITA.

**Payroll Service Bureau (PSB) Update:** Dr. Armstrong reported that VSDB continues to have problems and continues to request exemption from this service, but have been unable to make headway on this issue. Senator Hanger confirmed that it did not appear that VSDB has benefited from inclusion in the PSB. Delegate Landes stressed that it is part of the responsibility of the elected officials to hold the bureaucracy accountable and it is their job to address issues like this in the correct venue.

**Construction Update:** Dr. Armstrong reports that construction is progressing. The new deaf boys' dorm will have a walk through with the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management (BCOM) on July 6, 2011. Furniture for the dorms will be delivered July 11, 2011. The blind students' dorm should be ready for the students to move in later in the fall. The education building will be ready next spring. Peery Hall and Swanson Hall are in the process of interior demolition. Peery Hall will be completely gutted and have new energy efficient windows installed. Watts Hall has had asbestos abated and is ready to be gutted and refit for the elementary boys and girls. Watts Hall roof will also be renovated to reflect the roof line of the other buildings on campus. The walkway from the Chapel to Bass Hall will be demolished and rebuilt with a cover. A bridge will provide access from Main Hall over to the elevator in Bass Hall. There will be a tour of the new deaf boys dorm after the conclusion of the meeting. Discussion followed about the status of funds to maintain Main Hall. Janice Rankin responded that our first request was denied, but VSDB continues to ask for funds for specific areas of need including the electrical system and stabilization of Main Hall.

**School Reports:** The order of school reports was changed to accommodate staff schedules and a guest speaker for the Parent-Infant Program.

Budget: The Board received Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs Grant and Title II, Part A, Teacher Quality Grant to review before the meeting. The total amount requested for Title I is \$148,590.47 and for Title II is \$20,773.33. A short discussion of these funds followed. It was confirmed that conferences attended by staff are reviewed before permission is given to attend, then the staff who attend share the information with staff who could not attend. John Pleasants MOVED to approve the Title I and Title II grant proposals. The motion was SECONDED by Alice Frick. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Janice Rankin reported that VSDB has approximately \$2,500.00 left in the FY2011 budget. She presented the FY2012 budget for the Board's approval. A Board member inquired why the FY2011 budget was so close. Does VSDB include unappropriated funds in the budget? Ms. Rankin replied that after budget cuts the VSDB budget was one million over budget; even with some very painful cuts including letting employees go and keeping 14 positions vacant, there are no unappropriated funds. It was asked if the school anticipated savings with the new building coming on line. Ms. Rankin responded that the utilities are more efficient, but to maintain the new systems will be more expensive. VSDB will have several new elevators to maintain and will need to hire an additional position to maintain the boiler system. Right now VSDB is operating on an electric boiler and it is very expensive. A Board member inquired about teacher salaries, have they been increased? Mr. McLamb responded to this question; salaries look better on the surface due to the 5% increase, but the 5% increase is to cover the 5% the employees will now have to contribute to retirement. Delegate Landes stressed that the Board should have more time to review the budget before approving. He requested that the Executive Committee meet to review the budget and report back to the full Board at the next meeting. The Board would like an update on teacher salaries at the next Board meeting. John Pleasants MOVED to approve the budget. The motion was SECONDED by Diane Sandidge. Motion was carried by voice vote with the understanding the Executive Committee will review the budget in depth.

Expansion of outreach program / Parent-Infant Program: Casey Morehouse and Sarah Shreckhise introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of the program. (Italic section below) Special guest Bailey Clark with daughter Follin spoke to the Board about her experience with the Parent-Infant Program. She applauded the staff on the unbiased information they provided that helped her make decisions that were best for her daughter. Her daughter is thriving, thanks to the early intervention and information provided by VSDB staff. A short discussion followed Ms. Clark's testimony. A Board member asked if the Program would be coordinating gatherings of the families served. That is a long term goal but due to the distance involved, right now most inter-family contact is by internet and conferencing. Ms. Morehouse confirmed that the Program is actively involved in the transition of the child from Part C (birth to age three) to Part B (services in public schools).

***Sarah Shreckhise, MS CCC-SLP (Parent Infant/Outreach Coordinator)*** has worked at VSDB for the past 7 years providing speech-language pathology services to students in the blind and deaf departments. She has worked primarily with students in preschool and elementary programs to increase student's communication abilities in any modality as well as develop phonological awareness and phonological processing skills. Sarah is currently one of the coordinators of the Autism Support Team. Also, Sarah has studied the educational and intervention needs for individuals who are DeafBlind through Utah State University. In addition, Sarah is taking coursework in Applied Behavior Analysis in pursuit of a Board Certification in Behavior Analysis. Sarah is certified by Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia as an Early Intervention Professional.

***Casey Morehouse, M.Ed. CCC/A, (Parent Infant/Outreach Supervisor)*** has been the Educational Audiologist at VSDB for the past 24 years, with 35 years experience in the field of Deaf Education. She is currently completing her Doctorate of Audiology. Casey serves on the Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention System Advisory Board (VEHDI) and is a member of the Virginia Network of Consultants (VNOc), a DOE program which matches selected experts in the field of Deaf Education with school divisions needing consultation and assessment services. Casey is a founding board member of Virginia Chapter of Hands & Voices, a national parent/professional organization that supports and respects family choice in the communication and

educational decisions they make for their children who are deaf or hard of hearing. She holds certification from the SKI HI Institute as a Parent Advisor working with families of infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or low vision, and DeafBlind including those who have multiple disabilities. Casey is certified by Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia as an Early Intervention Professional and Supervisor. She is a Guide By Your Side and serves as a parent mentor for families with children who are newly identified as deaf or hard of hearing. Casey is the mother of two VSDB Deaf Department graduates; Robert (Class of 2010) and Carroll (Class of 2005). Carroll was the first toddler enrolled in VSDB's Parent Infant Program in 1988.

### **Parent Infant Education Program:**

VSDB re-established our Parent-Infant Education Program during the 2010-2011 school year. Legislation was passed in 2008 to allow VSDB to serve children from birth-22, but no funding was approved in order to accomplish this task. Sarah Shreckhise assumed responsibility for this part-time position as an Early Intervention Provider and part-time as a Speech-Language Pathologist during this past year. As required by the Part C program in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Casey and Sarah completed the necessary training modules in order to qualify as early intervention service providers. Casey also completed the training module required for being an early intervention supervisor.

The goals of our Parent Infant Education Program are to provide parents and families of children in the birth-three age range who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing, blind or low vision, or deaf-blind with un-biased information, support, and early intervention services. The program aims to connect the parents of young children with sensory impairments to early intervention service providers who are knowledgeable in the range of needs, challenges and various pathways to success that exist in relation to deafness and/or blindness. Our Parent-Infant Education Program is committed to working collaboratively with families, service providers, Part C programs, Part C providers, and schools in order to develop and implement effective and comprehensive services for young children in Virginia who have sensory impairments.

Parent-Infant Education Program staff members will coordinate with established Infant Toddler Connection agencies through the Part C system in order to provide direct, collaborative and consultative services. The staff members are able to provide the following services:

- Exploration of all communication modalities, in a non-biased manner
- Professional expertise in hearing impairment, visual impairment, dual sensory impairments, child development, developmental delays and early intervention.
- Educational and Pediatric Audiology
- Comprehensive Audiological diagnostic and evaluation services
- Speech-Language Pathology evaluation and treatment
- Aural habilitation treatment services
- Expertise in assistive technology and amplification
- Monitoring of children with a family history of hearing impairment or middle ear pathology
- Transition planning from early intervention to school-based services
- Home-based service provision delivered as determined by the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

### **2010/2011 School Year Activities**

A brochure outlining the aforementioned goals and services that could be provided to families in collaboration with Part C agencies has been developed. This brochure has been disseminated at various locations including a parent-fair in Albemarle County, The Statewide Interagency Team's Deaf Awareness Week Open House, The professional and parent networking meeting with the Virginia DeafBlind project, the VEDHI Advisory Board and the Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education (VCASE).

Sarah is currently providing early intervention speech-language services to 5 families from 3 different Part C agencies. Following the model of best-practice for early intervention these services are provided in the natural environment of the child which includes the family home, extended family home, or day care setting. Casey and Sarah have responded to calls requesting support, consultation and information from 10 additional Part C agencies. This means that in the past year with part-time staff, they have been able to connect with 15 out of the 40 Part C agencies that cover the state. There are three potential new families in the process of entering into Part C Services at this time. VSDB Audiology Services has conducted 45 audiological assessments on infants and toddlers this school year as the request of Part C agencies, hospitals, physicians, community based audiologist and parents.

### **Coming Up in 2011/2012**

Next year Sarah will move to a position as the full-time Parent-Infant and Outreach Specialist. Sarah will continue to provide direct speech-language services to families of young children with sensory impairments within the natural environment of the child. She and Casey will continue to make contacts with other Part C agencies to describe the services that our Parent-Infant Education Program can provide. Currently the focus is on connecting with agencies in parts of the state that are

“underserved.” Sarah and Casey will be able to provide Outreach for VSDB through a variety of ways. Some of the initial outreach ideas include:

- Consultative, collaborative support for children who have transitioned into the Part B system
- Develop a sign language class at VSDB for parent-infant families and interested community members. This class will also be offered to parents of students in the current preschool program.
- Evaluation services for children with sensory impairments in other Virginia school systems.
- Follow up support and consultation for students who have transitioned back to their local school systems.
- Participation in statewide training events/workshops at which information about VSDB can be disseminated
- Attend Gallaudet’s National Outreach Conference this summer (Casey)

Personnel and Staff Diversity: Nathan McLamb, Human Resources Director

Mr. McLamb presented three slides with information on staff diversity.

**Diversity by Disability: All Staff (Projected for Academic Year 2011-2012)**

Department	None	Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Blind/Visual Impairment	Other	Grand Total	% Disability by Department
Administration	5				5	0%
Clinical/Educational Support	19	3			22	14%
Education-Admin	1	2			3	67%
Education-Blind	18				18	0%
Education-Blind Paraprofessional	9				9	0%
Education-Deaf	17	11			28	39%
Education-Deaf Bus Assistants	4	1			5	20%
Education-Deaf Interpreting	10	1			11	9%
Education-Deaf Paraprofessional	5	9			14	64%
Food Services	6				6	0%
Health Services	9				9	0%
Human Resources	3				3	0%
Operations-Business	6				6	0%
Operations-Facilities	11				11	0%
Operations-Housekeeping	8			1	9	11%
Public Safety	11				11	0%
Residential	11	1			12	8%
Residential-Blind	12		1		13	8%
Residential-Deaf	17	13			30	43%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total % Disability</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>		

**Racial Diversity: Full-Time Faculty and Classified Staff (Projected for Academic Year 2011–2012)**

<b>Department</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Indian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Minority % by Department</b>
Administration	4				4	0%
Clinical/Educational Support	19			1	20	5%
Education-Admin	3				3	0%
Education-Blind	11				11	0%
Education-Blind Paraprofessional	4				4	0%
Education-Deaf	22			3	25	12%
Education-Deaf Interpreting	6			1	7	14%
Education-Deaf Paraprofessional	9	1			10	10%
Food Services	4			2	6	33%
Health Services	4				4	0%
Human Resources	3				3	0%
Operations-Business	5				5	0%
Operations-Facilities	11				11	0%
Operations-Housekeeping	7				7	0%
Public Safety	1				1	0%
Residential	8			1	9	11%
Residential-Blind	10			1	11	9%
Residential-Deaf	22		1	3	26	15%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total % Race</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>		

<b>Comparative Locations</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Indian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Reported 2 or more Races</b>	<b>Minority %</b>
Staunton City- Pop. 23,746	83.70%	0.20%	2.20%	12.10%	2.30%	16.30%
Waynesboro City- Pop. 21,006	82.20%	0.30%	6.40%	10.60%	3.20%	15.30%
Augusta County - Pop. 73,750	93.40%	0.20%	2.10%	4%	1.20%	8%

(Comparative data taken from U.S. Census Bureau)

**Racial Diversity: All Staff (Projected for Academic Year 2011 2012)**

<b>Department</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>India n</b>	<b>Hispani c</b>	<b>Blac k</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Minority % by Departmen t</b>
Administration	5				5	0%
Clinical/Educational Support	21			1	22	5%
Education-Admin	3				3	0%
Education-Blind	17			1	18	6%
Education-Blind Paraprofessional	9				9	0%
Education-Deaf	24		1	3	28	14%
Education-Deaf Bus Assistants	4			1	5	20%
Education-Deaf Interpreting	10			1	11	9%
Education-Deaf Paraprofessional	12	1	1		14	14%
Food Services	4			2	6	33%
Health Services	9				9	0%
Human Resources	3				3	0%
Operations-Business	6				6	0%
Operations-Facilities	11				11	0%
Operations-Housekeeping	9				9	0%
Public Safety	11				11	0%
Residential	11			1	12	8%
Residential-Blind	10			3	13	23%
Residential-Deaf	26		1	3	30	13%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Total % Race</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>		

<b>Comparative Locations</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Indian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Reported 2 or more Races</b>	<b>Minority %</b>
Staunton City- Pop. 23,746	83.70%	0.20%	2.20%	12.10%	2.30%	16.30%
Waynesboro City- Pop. 21,006	82.20%	0.30%	6.40%	10.60%	3.20%	15.30%
Augusta County - Pop. 73,750	93.40%	0.20%	2.10%	4%	1.20%	8%

(Comparative data taken from U.S. Census Bureau)

A Board member expressed concern over no teaching staff with visual impairments. The students need positive role models and the opportunity to interact with adults with similar disabilities. Mr. McLamb responded that VSDB did have staff with visual impairments, but both left for personal reasons. There are few applicants with visual impairments.

Rachel Bavister pointed out that VSDB needs to look beyond the physical diversity to cultural diversity. VSDB needs to focus on fostering an atmosphere that is more sensitive to a variety of cultures so that we do not lose employees due to misunderstandings. VSDB needs to reestablish a cross cultural committee.

Update on applications and Student Diversity: Becky Plesko-DuBois, Clinical Director

Ms. Plesko-DuBois reported to the Board that the new Clinical Director, Cynthia Ward, will be reporting the end of July. She is moving from Vermont.

The following is Dr. Plesko's report on applications.

*In total, VSDB processed 31 new student applications for the 2010-2011 academic year. That compares to 26 total applications for 2009-2010 and 24 for 2008-2009. There were large gains in the Deaf Department preschool and high school programs as compared to recent history. The Blind Department has consistently received between 9 -10 applications per academic year since 2008. A comparison of applications since 2008 indicates that across departments, the majority of new student applications are for high school students.*

*In 2010-2011, the Blind Department processed 9 applications and accepted 8 new students. In the Blind Department there were 3 new elementary school students, 1 new middle school student, and 4 new high school students. One elementary school student with significant support needs was not accepted.*

*In 2010-2011, the Deaf Department processed 22 applications and accepted 18 new students. In the deaf department there were 4 new preschool students, 3 new elementary school students, 2 new middle school students, and 8 new high school students. A total of 4 students were not accepted: 2 students with significant mental health needs, 1 student using spoken language for communication successfully, and one student with significant support needs. One elementary school student was accepted but decided to remain in public school.*

*In addition to the new students added last year, VSDB has already processed 11 applications for the 2011-2012 academic year. The Blind Department has accepted 1 middle school student and 3 high school students. The Deaf Department has accepted 3 elementary school students, 1 middle school student, and 1 high school student. There is one decision pending for another elementary school student and application packets to be reviewed for a potential preschool student and a middle school student. One high school student's application was withdrawn when the family moved out of the country this summer.*

*To support increasing application numbers, VSDB will continue to attend regional meetings of Special Education Directors, send informational flyers, and identify community and family outreach opportunities, such as hosting information tables at conferences. The Blind Department was also investigating the feasibility of reinstating the TEMP program, where students come to VSDB for disability specific training during the academic year. VSDB also plans to reinstate summer camp programs at the completion of the construction projects.*

Dr. Plesko stressed that early intervention is the first step to academic success. All new students are assigned to a member of the Behavior Team to help them through the transition into a residential program. Many of our students have more than academic needs; they also need mental health services. VSDB works with the Valley Community Services Board and Department of Social Services to provide services to the students who are in need. VSDB has several programs in place to prevent bullying and social pressure.

Dr. Plesko led the discussion on the Cross Cultural Committee. (Please refer to attachment 1 for report submitted by Kathy Campbell.) Bobbie Dietz, a member of the committee, stressed that it is very important to receive feedback from the students as well as the staff.

The Board had a working lunch.

Residential Report: Mary Murray, Director of Student Life

The dorm staff are gone for the summer. Everyone is looking forward to the new dorms. Furniture should be delivered the first part of July. An issue was raised on the naming of the new dorms and it was agreed to delay the discussion until the end of the meeting under new business.

2011-2012 Schedule: Jack Johnson, Principal

Mr. Johnson reported that he and several staff attended a conference in Charlottesville, Opening Doors, Unlocking Potential. They learned at this conference that a report has been published that shows that if a child is taught ASL as an infant it will not impede their spoken language.

The school will be implementing a 7 period schedule this year and it is almost set. The state is requiring teacher endorsements in content areas in which they are teaching, so this might cause changes to the schedule. The decision to move to a 7 period schedule was a joint decision with the teaching staff and administration, a few

teachers are not happy with the change, but the majority voted for it. It is the general consensus that this is the schedule to meet the needs of the students.

The Department of Education is now requiring that teachers not only be Highly Qualified, but also endorsed in the subjects they teach. When the new Master Collection Schedule was implemented VSDB was informed they were not included, then at the last minute they were informed that they do need to comply with the new regulations. VSDB needs additional time to meet the requirements. Senator Hanger asked if the school would be able to meet the requirements if they had an additional year. Dr. Armstrong replied in the affirmative. Donna Gateley MOVED to delay implementation of the Master Schedule requirements for one year. The motion was SECONDED by Virgil Cook. Delegate Landes asked if there would be a negative consequence to funding if delayed. Dr. Armstrong answered that we were not aware of any consequences. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Foundation Update: Nancy Armstrong, Superintendent

We are closer to having the approval of the IRS. All forms have been submitted. Once the Foundation is approved it will be self sustaining.

Student Health: Amy Huffer, Director of Student Health

Ms. Huffer was not able to attend; this report will be given at next Board meeting.

**New Business:**

Superintendent's House:

Bob Wytal was the last Superintendent to live in the house. Dr. Armstrong is interested in moving into the residence. She is asking the Board to look into the possibility. The Board delayed a decision pending more information. The Executive Committee will meet to review information on repairs to be submitted by Marvin Mahler, and discuss either rent or compensation package and report at the next Board meeting.

Naming of new buildings:

The Board would like to review state policies on naming of new buildings. The Executive Committee will discuss a process for VSDB and go over name nominations for the new dorms and educational building. Samantha Vanterpool offered to research state policy and recommend a policy for VSDB. The Executive Committee will report at the next Board meeting.

Code Changes: Rich Sliwoski, Director Department of General Services

Dr. Armstrong opened this discussion explaining that soon the VSDB campus will have several vacant buildings; Strader Hall, Healy Hall (with exception of the auditorium), and Battle Hall dorm. Looking to the end of construction, what will these buildings be used for? How will they be managed? If possible to rent to other state agencies they will need some renovation, does VSDB pay for that or the agency renting the space? The Board discussed options for the vacant buildings, it was agreed that the buildings could not be sold, which is the normal practice when a state building becomes vacant, because of the unique situation of VSDB. They agreed that space could be rented provided that agency renting is in line with the mission of VSDB. Mr. Sliwoski informed the Board that the current wording of state policy is if a vacant building is rented the funds go into the general fund. For VSDB to be able to keep rent in their budget the wording will need to be changed. He had two suggestions as how to re-word:

- 1. The Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, with assistance of the Department of General Services, is authorized to lease any of its buildings no longer needed for purposes of the School to private entities, provided such private entities are educational providers or otherwise provide services deemed necessary or desirable to operations of the School. Any such lease shall be approved in writing by the Governor or his designee, who shall first consider the written recommendation of the Department of General Services, and shall be approved as to form by the Attorney General.*
- 2. Any proceeds derived from such leases shall be held, used and administered by the Board of Visitors for such purposes as said Board may deem best for the School.*
- 3. Any construction required to allow use of such buildings by the tenant, at the tenant's sole cost, shall not be deemed a capital project as the term is defined in §4-4.01 of Chapter 890, 2011 Session of the General Assembly. Such construction shall be subject to §39-98.1*

OR

*The Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, with the assistance of the Department of General Services, is authorized to lease any of its buildings no longer needed for purposes of the School to private entities, provided such private entities are educational providers or otherwise provide services deemed necessary or desirable to operations or complementary to the mission of the school. The lease payments shall be retained by the*

*School for the maintenance and operation of the leased facilities. Any such lease shall be approved in writing by the Governor or his designee, who shall first consider the written recommendation of the Department of General Services, and shall be approved as to form by the Attorney General.*

*Any construction required to allow use of such buildings by the tenant, at the tenant's sole cost, shall not be deemed a capital project as the term is defined in §4-4.01 of Chapter 890, 2011 Session of the General Assembly. Such construction shall be subject to §36-98.1*

The Executive Committee will take this under advisement at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Approval of Site Plan: Marvin Mahler, Director of Maintenance

Mr. Mahler was not able to attend. This will be presented at the next Board meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Rocco DeVito expressed the need for VSDB to have a full time ASL teacher for the students. Children who use verbal communications are taught English from elementary through high school, children who use ASL as their primary form of communication should have the same level of instruction. Jack Johnson responded that ASL instruction is scheduled, though at this time it is not a core course.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 27, 2011. Board members will confirm availability. Executive Committee meeting will be set by email.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm

Attachment 1

The following was provided by Kathy Campbell a member of the Cross Cultural Committee.

*The VSDB Cross Cultural Committee was established last year with the mission to identify the strengths and weaknesses related to culture on our campus. The committee was comprised of representatives from the Deaf Department (teacher and dorm staff), Blind Department (teacher and dorm staff), Behavior staff and a Human Rights Representative. The committee attempted to meet once every quarter however attendance was inconsistent.*

*The items discussed at the meetings were as follows:*

- *The definition of culture*
- *Listed examples of both Deaf and Blind culture*
- *Listed examples of when culture was not respected or overlooked*
- *Define Autism*
- *Discussed various Communication Policies from Deaf and Blind school in the country*

*Due to the low and inconsistent attendance, the committee did not continue meet this year.*

*Suggestions to re-establish this committee and be more successful in the future would include:*

- *Change the name to Diversity Committee (to encompass not only Culture but also diversity on campus, to encompass access to activities, communication, buildings for all populations on campus)*
- *Establish a new committee chair*
- *Recruit members that have a strong interest in the cause.*
- *Include meeting dates on the school's yearly training calendar to ensure that staff members would not have conflicts in scheduling and are able to attend.*
- *Develop workshops such as "Introduction to Deaf Culture", "Working with DeafBlind students and Interveners", "How to Use an Interpreter" and "Introduction to Blind Culture and Mobility" on the VSDB Knowledge Center (online training system).*

Respectfully submitted by: Kathy Campbell, Interpreter Coordinator/DeafBlind Intervener Supervisor/SLPI Coordinator