



Location (in person):

Virginia Tech Northern VA Center
7054 Haycock Rd, Falls Church, VA 22043

8/19/2022

Virtual Meeting Details:

~~Join ZoomGov Meeting~~

~~<https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1611668387?pwd=MEJTWjMyUzlTVzlpWk82Y2dpaVliUT09>~~

~~Meeting ID: 161 166 8387~~

~~Passcode: 574678~~

~~Dial by your location~~

~~—————+1 551 285 1373 US~~

Board Members:

Dr. Melody Agbisit

Ms. Suja Amir

Ms. Laura Beldin

Ms. Lisa Chen

Mr. Paul Chhabra

Ms. Rowena Finn

Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick

Dr. Nina Ha

Mr. Razi Hashmi

Mr. Justin Lo

Ms. Salinna Lor

Mr. Boa (Bobby) Ly

Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan

Ms. Carla Okouchi

Dr. Marie Sankaran Raval

Ms. Ssunny Shah

Professor Da L. "Linda" Sheth

Ms. Quan Schneider

Mr. Jewan "Jack Jewan" Tiwawri

Mr. Pient Tran

Ms. Henry Yuan

In-Person Attendance:

Virginia Asian Advisory Board Members:

Dr. Melody Agbisit, Ms. Suja Amir, Ms. Laura Beldin, Ms. Rowena Finn, Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, Dr. Nina Ha, Mr. Razi Hashmi, Ms. Salinna Lor, Mr. Boa (Bobby) Ly, Mr. Praveendhara (Praveen) Meyyan, Ms. Carla Okouchi, Ms. Henry Yuan

Member of the Public: Sam Florer

In Attendance Virtual

Virginia Asian Advisory Board Members: Ms. Lisa Chen, Professor Da L. "Linda" Sheth

From the Governor's Cabinet

Jenna Moon

Lunch will be available for board members starting at 12:00pm

12:30 p.m.

Welcome

Suja Amir

Call to Order

Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Meeting Overview

12:35 p.m.

June Meeting Minutes Approval

Nina Ha

August Meeting Agenda Adoption

Secretary, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

12:45 p.m.

Public Comment

Nina Ha

Secretary, Virginia Asian Advisory

Board

Sam Florer: *Manager of Public Programs for the VA Museum of History and Culture (In Richmond, VA)*

“Becoming Citizens”. 8 Week series of classes 6:30 PM – 8 PM Classes are free: Citizenship Classes. Offering classes for people to pass citizenship tests. These classes are for people who are thinking about or are currently in the naturalization process. Basic ability to read, write, and speak English. Class will be in English. Will provide study materials for people preparing for the test, including the workbook. Utilizing resources from the Museum, including library materials.

First class: Wednesday, October 26th - December 14th

Please pre-register for the class. Open to walk-ins for the first class

Sam Florer is in charge and will be teaching the classes

Sflorer@virginiahistory.org

Museum of History and Culture website should have all of the information.

Flyers are in English and Spanish

Focusing on expanding this program and seeking partner organizations as well.

Run this program in the Fall and the Spring.

Student volunteers will most likely have Spanish-speaking backgrounds.

Question: Have you considered opening these classes up to virtual and/or hybrid options?

Considered providing study materials for free and accessible. Will keep this in mind.

Harold Pyon

Deputy Director

Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry

Cooperative Program: Government gives small grants to small businesses for safety issues

Registered Apprenticeship: Construction workers, dry cleaning owners

Small business owners (Less than 250 employees) - Can get financial support for owners to hire apprentices. After two years of apprenticeship and on the job training

Can assist Asian-owned businesses

Department of Labor and Industry: Register for Apprenticeship Site

Doli.virginia.gov

Working with the DOE: Pharmacy Technician Training Program

1:09 p.m.

Board Administration Update

Suzanne Holland

Director of Advisory Board

Administration

Travel Reimbursements – Please submit in a timely manner

SAVE THE DATE!!: Community Engagement (Civic Engagement) – Sept. 23rd from 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM; Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Conference Room E, First Floor, Richmond, VA

There is a virtual option

Co-sponsored with Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Asian American Pacific Islander Representation in Virginia Government (Register through Event Brite)

Conference/Summit is free.

There is NO VAAB meeting for Sept. 22nd.

One of the reasons for this event: Representation of AAPIs in Government is very low.

Board Member announcements: There are no new appointments for the VAAB this year. If you're interested in staying on the Board, you need to re-apply through the portal.

Annual Report Timeline:

August – September: Submit Report to Board Liaison to begin sharing with Cabinet/staff; Try to give report by mid-September

September/October: Present report to Governor/Cabinet & publish for public

Results to aim: Receiving feedback from recommendations

Annual Report – Recommendations:

Aspirations to Action to Results

1. What are we trying to achieve?
2. Are we doing what we set out to achieve?
3. Are we “best in class” at it?

Tips:

Prioritize metrics and measurable results

Reflect everything through the Governor's priorities

Verbalize how the recommendations will fulfill those priorities /goals

Admin priorities

Make Virginia the best state to live, work, and raise a family by:

Cutting costs for Virginians and reducing regulatory burdens

Restoring Excellence in Education

Keeping our Communities Safe

Reinvigorating Job Growth and Making Government Work for Virginians

Recommendations should tie into what the Board has done and what we want to continue to do.

Recs can take time to come to fruition;

Not all recommendations translate directly to policy or legislative actions

Think about other types of recommendations like outreach solutions, administrative actions, and direct Board initiatives

“Policy” recommendations can encompass the following:

Changes to VA Code (requires GA approval/legislation)

1:45 p.m.

Break

1:20 p.m.

Committee Breakouts

Business & Trade

Finalizing recommendations

Civic Engagement

Education

Health

1:45 p.m.

Break

2:00 p.m. Committee Breakouts

2:49 p.m.

Committee Reports and

Nina

Board Discussion:

Secretary, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Compiling report sections

Business & Trade:

Update recommendations from last year to reflect current policies

Newer Administration: Expectations

Reiterate some of recommendations from last year.

Include funding elements

Make metrics and particular recommendations – reflect current trends including high tech area.

Immediate action items:

Update language

Compare older and newer policies

Health Committee:

In consideration that it's a new committee in VAAB, will continue to advocate for language access and barriers, continue literacy of health and resources, address lack of representation in the AAPI health professions. Empower AAPI to go into Administration and educate health care professionals about AAPI issues. Oct. 6 at 6 PM, On-line Mental Health Panel Discussion concerning domestic violence within the AAPI community. Looking for a survivor of domestic violence (familial); October is Relationship Violence Awareness Month. Will reach out to medical professionals. Open to one or more suggestions, including having guest speakers. Appreciate help in marketing events.

Reach out to Her Shelter and Hamkae Center; Department of Criminal Justice Services, Working group of Sexual Assault and Violence Programs

Education Committee:

Four Areas:

AAPI Curriculum

AAPI teacher recruitment, retention, and Leadership opportunities. There is data lacking for documenting AAPI teachers and administrators

Excellence in Education through Promoting Healthy Environments – Mitigation strategies in the era of airborne viruses.

Highlighting Fine and Performing Arts – Facility and Learning Spaces

Civic Engagement Committee:

AAPIs in Government Summit (Civic Engagement Summit)

Post Summit Reception and Speakers' Fee – Approve of use of Board's funds

Chair has discretion for committee(s) to form ad hoc committees.

.6% are in the judiciary level

Translation of election materials

Access to voting and the ballot

Ensure language access

Pulling together list of events that take place. Have a calendar for engagement.

What the future could look like (topics to explore): Access to housing (For 2023)

Note: Setting up a subcommittee, contact from the Administration

How to allocate funding:

Form an ad-hoc committee, give a proposal to the Board for review, Board approves proposal, ad-hoc committee officially approves the proposal, Commonwealth processes the funds.

Starting in September, there are new virtual meeting guidelines from FOIA – every other meeting, no more than two per calendar year, can be virtual. Members agreed this allowance should be utilized to have the ad-hoc committee review the use of Board funds for the upcoming Civic Engagement event.

3:52 p.m.

Chair's Report

Suja Amir

Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Addressed the letter circulated by the VAAB regarding SOLs.

Since 2015, there have been meetings regarding the Standards of Learning

See: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/>

Here's the Draft Document:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1beo9466nAmlnL2VyNxiX5svs9k9oPM0b/view>

Here's information provided by Hamkae Center:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dl1KgDm1bjv6vpZypCurAusZHi8o-y-a5JQYMm6JxLk/edit?usp=sharing>

4:00 p.m.

Presentation:

Sookyung Oh/Zowee Aquino

(Hamkae Center)

Sookyung Oh, Director of Hamkae Center

Presenting Hamkae Center's involvement to advocate for including AAPI content into the curriculum. Yesterday Board of Education Committee meeting did occur. Will be scheduling public feedback/input sessions regarding SOLs. Prior to this past meeting, there had been a lot of feedback.

Delay occurred:

Revised standards right now has some typos and omissions. One of the omissions is that George Washington is no longer referred to as the Father of the U.S.

Another request for the delay for the vote of first review is that there are 5 incoming new Board members who may not have had time to review the SOLs.

Superintendent recommended a one-month delay and do a vote of first review for September.

There will be public engagement sessions.

Regional roundtables: Those will be public. Waiting for DOE to schedule those events. At these regional roundtables, people should testify about these SOLs.

Community information sessions. Unclear what they will be comprised.

They sound like focus groups.

All of the information about these public information sessions are still forthcoming.

None of the incumbent Board Members didn't receive these revised standards until July. Their role as the Board was to decide upon the timeline of the revision process.

Hamkae testified on Wednesday at the Public Comment session to not delay the vote to put forth a review and vote. Also issued a statement after the Board of Education meeting. AAPIs are enthusiastic about putting forth these standards.

Zowee Aquino – Policy and Communications Team at Hamkae Center.

Hamkae's interest is an organization around community organizing. They are advocating for more AAPI content in History and Social Science Standards.

Revised standards would do is make room for educators to bring AAPI content into lessons about the Civil Rights Movement/Immigrant Rights Movement, etc.

There are some topics that are mandated to be taught: JA Internment, Chinese Exclusion Act. There is a lot of room for teachers to discuss AAPI history such as teaching the Vietnamese American Community and the Eden Center or FilipinX communities in Virginia Beach, etc...

Urging the Board of Education to support and pass the revised standards as they are. What can we do as a community to support teachers who want to teach AAPI content?

Working with Professors at the University of MD and Virginia Tech. Recommending to make AAPI content more explicit. Will be sending/sharing critical analyses and complete comments of AAPI content to the BOE.

*Board votes were delayed until the end of the meeting as a quorum was met at 3pm with the arrival of Suja Amir and Razi Hashmi.

4:27 p.m. Call To Order

Melody: Approve the agenda and accept the minutes

Salinna Lor: Second

All in favor – Yes

Abstentions – None

None – None

4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Announcements

Suja Amir

Chair, Virginia Asian Advisory Board

Continued Chair's Report and Closing Remarks

If you have any ideas or inform the public, please make sure to speak up and share information. As an advisory board, please share comments.

When thinking about the Annual Report, think about the issues based on the committee. What is of value and why? What are some good actionable items?

This week: Commemorating Partition with India and Pakistan, 50th anniversary of Bangladesh & Nepal. *Ms. Marvel* – Learning about history through Marvel.

Discussed before adjournment:

Suzanne:

Considering meetings, starting in September, Board Meetings can alternate between meeting in-person and then virtually. Since we met in-person in August, then the next meeting could be virtual. There are a number of stipulations about virtual participants communicating the reason for their virtual participation - the board can decide whether they want to restrict virtual participation on a case-by-case basis.

Given that there was a quorum, everyone agreed that the next meeting should be held virtually so that we could vote on the minutes and discuss other matters. Members discussed their existing policy - created in September, 2021 about virtual participation and agreed the new allowance is a step in the right direction for transparency and accessibility of meetings. There was discussion about whether each member would have to communicate their reason for joining virtually

(family illness, travel, etc.) and agreed that the Chair and Board Administrator would monitor members who abused the privilege at future in-person meetings.

All board members were in agreement with upholding the newly permitted structure of alternating between meeting in-person (quorum present) and virtually (no in-person gathering).

Next VAAB Meeting: 4 pm – 5:30 pm (Virtual). September 14th.

Motion to adjourn with the understanding that we would be meeting virtually until next (virtual) meeting as per the new FOIA guidelines: Suja

Second: Rowenna

Adjournment

Additional Announcements & Notes:

- **VietFest 2022:** Board members and members of the public are encouraged to participate in VietFest, the premier Northern Virginia celebration of Vietnamese culture on August 20th and 21st at Tysons Corner.
- **Next VAAB Meeting:**
 - December 9th – TBD location
 - *AAPI Heritage Month reception has been delayed to a later date in the year
- **Next Committee Meetings:** TBD; virtual – scheduled at Committee Chair request
- **Annual Report Timeline:**
 - August: Compile and finalize recommendations
 - September: Publish annual report
- **Board Website:** VAAB.Virginia.Gov
- **Board Email:** VAAB@Governor.Virginia.Gov

VAAB Member Lunch and refreshments graciously provided by member Bobby Ly

*Special thanks to Dr. Kenneth Wong and other staff at Virginia Tech Northern VA Campus for their support and accommodation of this meeting of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board.