



February 15, 2024

Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting

Attendees Present: Dr. Ivey Green, Chair; Rev. Cozy Bailey, Vice Chair; William Cleveland, Owen Cardwell, Shannon Kendrick, Monica Hall, Deventae Mooney, Ingrid Granberry Grant, Robert Barnette, Princess Philomena Desmond- Ogugua, Clarence Neely, CJ Sailor, Jr. Shelia Dixon, Eldon Burton, Tia Yancey, Keren Charles Dongo, Toria Edmonds-Howell, Tamara Walkerson-Dias,

Absent: Hope F. Cupit, Secretary, Bishop Joseph Chase, Chris Sanchez

Adm. Staff: Emma Jensen, Justin Bell

The meeting called to order at 12:06. Madam Chair Green opened the first meeting of the year with greetings. Chair Green reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting schedule and confirmed with Justin that two future meeting dates can be held virtually. Emma shared the dates in the chat:

February 15, 2024
April 18, 2024
June 20, 2024
August 15, 2024
October 17, 2024 (Potentially meet with the Governor)
November 21, 2024

Chair Green asked for approval of the minutes and to change items on the agenda. She requested that the annual report review item be moved later, and in the meeting to allow time for the Vice Chair to make comments.

Member Kendrick made motion, and second by Member Barnette. Motion accepted to approve the agenda and move the annual report item.

Chair Green asked for a motion to be made to move the report planning item up in the meeting. Member Kendrick made the motion, and second by Member Neely. Motion carries.

Chair Green requested ideas of moving Black Table Talks or Town Halls to later in the year considering changes in the board membership. This will give everyone time to plan and meet with their subcommittees; as well as focusing on opportunities to maximize our reach, networks,



and future events to provide representation of this board. She then shared feedback regarding past evaluations and recommended the board create an additional survey for community members and share the results with this administration.

Chair Green then opened the meeting up to discuss current topics and concerns. Member Cardwell shared his experiences in higher education regarding chronic absenteeism. As well as statistics of kids averaging days missed for 10 days or more. Member Yancey also shared data regarding absenteeism by hosting a community Sunday Supper with Danville Public Schools and the Virginia Department of Health.

Member Cleveland shared resources available in the City of Alexandria through careers, mentorships, and the court systems in school and out of school. Member Granberry Grant also shared data from Henrico County, referring to adding wrap-around support for parents and students struggling with absenteeism. Member Granberry Grant's main concern was how we can work with parents to focus on K- 5th graders leading at a high of 11 percent. In addition to unfair releases of accreditation to school systems by the attendance rates.

Member Charles Dongo shared concerns about not enough wrap-around services in transportation, challenges, and the difficulties of getting students to school on time. She stated this is a time to approach other resources to support families that need to get their children to school.

Chair Green posed the question, how can we get to the parents in individual communities? Thinking outside the box, is there a suppository of resources to make them available to the people who need the services? She stated these are two opportunities for the education committee to inquire and share. Even if parents are not utilizing it, the administration can use them for reference. The conversation continued about resources for both parents and youth. Member Neely shared challenges in Norfolk and shared resources from the NCCAP that may be adopted as a resource for schools and parents.

Member Cardwell commented that a task force for the school system generally do not have a direct approach to media campaigns or a source directed towards the black and brown communities for resources. Member Neely replied we can play a part in getting the message out.

Emma Shared Youngkin's Absenteeism Task Force: via chat <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2023/september/name-1015132-en.html> (if you're interested in learning more)

Chair Green shared that we are solid in education, then suggested the next steps to address the issue by hosting a virtual town hall or how to make sure we the word out around the state. Member Kendrick shared a resource of the K-2 Life Enrichment Center Literacy Tutoring Program and expanded on those issues and commitment to related services. She shared we can assist with the mission since the governor has invested in this organization.



Member Grandberry Grant shared additional services from community learning centers such as dental, healthcare, mental health, food pantries, and social services. A comment was made by a Member that there is a task force on attendance in the VA Beach area, but it did not have much representation of the people it serves. Conversations transitioned to resources spent on tutoring. And the quality of tutors paying up to 50 dollars an hour with no increase in outcomes. Member Green shared thoughts on how organizations are paying for services, but the tutors are not investing in the students. How do we share this information to make a difference?

Member Dixon shared her thoughts about the focus on children in grades 6-8 that they were left out. What are we doing as a state to bring an alignment with other school age groups? We have jobs but unqualified people around them. Member Grandberry Grant commented that they are supporting students at summer school now, in addition to extra assistance on Saturdays. We are trying to provide exposure to students in need, however, there is no accountability for the parents. She then shared examples like the career rodeo and offering internships and externships, but they need support from parents.

Member Charles Dongo inquired about how to get more services in place for the parents. She posed the question of what should we be asking and providing to parents, as opposed to the school system. Member Cardwell reviewed the governor's task force mission to see where the board would have input. And commented that this is not a school problem, it's a community problem.

Conversations then led to discussions around opportunities to be present during Black History Month. Chair Green asked if anyone had any events to share or invite the board. The Chair shared that we should make an effort to utilize our networks and support any engagement initiatives.

The next topic of discussion was about Public Safety and Criminal Justice. Member Cleveland mentioned a meeting in a Black community in Richmond. He could not recall all of the details, but Member Rev. Chase was involved in the event at the Douglas Leadership Institute. Chair Green commented that the gun violence issue is not going away. She recalled speaking with the Petersburg Police Chief about resources to manage our gun violence issues. Member Neely referred to his consultation firm providing a de-escalation session to prevent crime in schools, in addition to providing a drone to patrol parking lots. He also provides sessions in anger management and conflict resolution. He suggested advising legislation to do a statewide anger management training. Chair Green acknowledged his recommendation and suggested that as an item for this year's report.

Member Cardwell shared a public safety resource to enforce safer neighborhoods by providing free doorbell cameras. A grant was received to make purchases from Lowes for around 30 dollars. He then shared that they then partnered with local contractors to install them for free. This resource allowed citizens to provide information to the police.



Small Black Business Committee updates were provided by Member Edmonds-Howell. She mentioned that the scheduled 2023 Black Table Talk was put on hold, but they were revisiting the plan for 2024. The idea is to continue the conversation with results from the previous Black Table Talk during the pandemic gather new challenges and provide resources. Member Edmonds-Howell posed advising administration about the limited access to a central depository of support for Small Black Owned Businesses in the area. In addition to a resource available for the governor to connect to this information. In the chat, she shared a research report that (Capital One) conducted last year looking at the relationship between business ownership and wealth creation for Black and Hispanic business owners: <https://www.capitalone.com/about/insights-center/black-and-hispanic-business-ownership-and-wealth/>

Chair Green confirmed Member Sailor's commitment to joining the Small Black Business Committee to offer any support to local groups and business partners. Member Edmonds-Howell continued to share thoughts on engagement with economic center panelists on topics of wealth creation pathways. In addition to surveying over 1000 businesses on how to expand support for business, technical assistance, PPP Loans, and inequities to black businesses.

Chair Green encourages the board to continue conversations and advance issues in health disparities in maternal and vaccine healthcare, food deserts, environmental issues, gun violence as a public health crisis, and education around it all.

Member Desmond- Ogugua did not provide any updates for the Health and Environment Committee.

Break at 1:15- 1:31 Chair Green- reopened the meeting.

Emma Jensen began with the board nominations of the secretary, vice chair, and chair roll call vote.

Member Sailor gave reasons for consideration. No other secretary nominations are open. Roll call of unanimous vote for Member Sailor, Secretary.

Member Kendrick gave reasons to consideration for vice-chair. Member Burdon withdrew his nomination for vice-chair in full support of Member Kendrick. Roll call of unanimous vote for Member Kendrick, Vice-Chair.

Member Bailey gave reasons for consideration for the chair. No other chair nominations are open. Roll call of unanimous vote for Member Bailey, Chair.

Member voting stands below:

Cheryl Ivey Green - Seat 17 - Virginia African American Advisory Board

Monica Hall - Seat 11 - Virginia African American Advisory Board



Deventae Terece Mooney - Seat 4 - Virginia African American Advisory Board

Shannon Kendrick - Seat 18 - Virginia African American Advisory Board

C.J. Sailor - Seat 16 - Virginia African American Advisory Board

Owen C. Cardwell - Seat 19 - Virginia African American Advisory Board

Clarence W. Neely - Seat 8 - Virginia African American Advi

Philomena Desmond-Ogugua - Seat 21 - Virginia African American Advi

William C. Cleveland - Seat 13 - Virginia African American Advi

Joseph A. Chase - Seat 14 - Virginia African American Advi

Tia L. Yancey - Seat 2 - Virginia African American Advi

Tamara W. Dias - Seat 5 - Virginia African American Advi

Christopher B. Sanchez - Seat 15 - Virginia African American Advi

Keren C Dongo - Seat 7 - Virginia African American Advi

Sheila Dixon - Seat 3 - Virginia African American Advi

Cozy E Bailey - Seat 1 - Virginia African American Advi

Eldon Burton - Seat 12 - Virginia African American Advi

Ingrid G Grant - Seat 10 - Virginia African American Advi

Toria Edmonds-Howell - Seat 20 - Virginia African American Advi

Hope F Cupit - Seat 6 - Virginia African American Advi

Robert Barnette - Seat 9 - Virginia African American Advi

Chair Green offered congratulations to the new officers who will relinquish their current roles at the next board meeting.



Vice-Chair Bailey provided updates on the current report and will submit it electronically for approval. From memory, he shared the four areas of focus to advise the governor in health inequities, police reforms issues, inequities of Small Black Owned Businesses, and teachers and children of the education systems. This draft offers pre and post-pandemic challenges, mental health issues in our communities at a higher rate than other communities, and our continued efforts to advise the administration for a pipeline for teachers and unique challenges of our criminal justice systems.

Justin Bell advised the board on how to proceed with finalizing the drafts electronically. Emma Jensen will follow up with the draft soon. Chair Green's goal is to close out this report within 30 days from today. To prepare for a new report cycle. Chair Green proposed a motion for the chair-elect to submit the electronic report for approval. Member Kendrick made a motion to for the chair-elect to submit the electronic report for approval. Member Cleveland second.

Breakout session committee report:

Health and Environment: Chair Green reported that the committee was planning a town hall meeting to focus on food deserts and healthy living around health issues.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety: Member Neely reported that gun violence was a little hard to come up with initiatives without law enforcement in the room. He shared information regarding a peer program from the Fredrick Douglas Institute. Plans are to meet with members of that group to plan some initiatives.

Small Black-Owned Businesses: Member Yancey and Member Dixon reported plans to host a virtual town hall to share information about our board and get data for our upcoming report. They aim to host the town hall on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 and host a hybrid Black Table Talk in August.

Education: Member Cardwell reported discussions about issues regarding more black teachers and is looking for more opportunities to continue the conversation.

Chair Green requested that the committees contact Emma Jensen to set up future meetings.

Public comment:

Aisa Johnson on behalf of the Council on Women, Secretary for Branch Group Construction She reported that the EEO and DEI groups are working with SWAM to host a lunch and learn in Black History Month for subcontractors.

A request was made to the board for an invite to a panel discussion about the importance of working with minority and Black-owned businesses. A suggestion was made for someone from the Small Black Owned Business Committee to attend but must provide details for public notice.



Chair Green extended gratitude for her time serving as chair and is looking forward to serving as a member of the board.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024 location TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Member Tia Yancey, 2/29/24