



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

September 9, 2025

2:15 PM

Reynolds Community College

1651 E Parham Rd.

Richmond, VA. 23228

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee

Reggie Aggarwal

Jim Cheng

The Honorable Steve Cummings

Ben J. Davenport, Jr

Bill Dotson

Cliff Fleet

W. Heywood Fralin

Joel Griffin

Kenneth Johnson

Delegate Terry Kilgore

John King

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Delegate Michelle Maldonado

Senator Ryan McDougale

Emily O'Quinn

Jon Peterson

Thomas Ransom

Delegate Don Scott

The Honorable Bryan Slater

Members Absent

Senator Creigh Deeds

Fouad Qreitem

The Honorable Juan Pablo Segura

Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Howell Agee, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Stottlemeyer provided welcoming comments and formally welcomed Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura to the Board.

Introduction of New Members

Ms. Agee provided a welcome and introduction to the Board's newest members, Mr. Bill Dotson and Mr. Thomas Ransom.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Ms. Agee opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Alison Varner-Denbigh, Executive Director of the GO Virginia Region 8 Council, appeared before the Board for comment. Ms. Varner-Denbigh provided comment on behalf of the Harrisonburg–Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, urging the Board to consider investments in childcare workforce projects.

Mr. Anderson noted that staff received one written public comment ahead of the meeting in the form of a letter from William E. Amos, PhD, Chair of the GO Virginia Region 2 Council, Mr. Paul Denham, Vice Chair of GO Virginia Region 2 Council, Lauren T.A. Willis, Chair of GO Virginia Region 3 Council, Tom Frantz, Chair of the GO Virginia Region 5 Council, and Lynn Taylor, Vice Chair of the GO Virginia Region 5 Council. The letter urged the Board to consider investments in childcare workforce projects.

No other members appeared before the Board for public comment. The public comment period was closed.

After the public comment period, Ms. Agee noted that the discussion regarding childcare would be taken up by the Governance and Policy Committee.

Election of Officers

Ms. Agee recognized Maggie Beal, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, to conduct the election of officers.

Ms. Beal noted that the Board created the Governance and Policy Committee, which acts as the nominating committee for the Board. Ms. Beal recognized Governance and Policy Committee Chair, Emily O'Quinn, to provide the recommended slate of candidates nominated by the Committee.

Ms. O'Quinn, on behalf of the Committee, nominated Ms. Emily O'Quinn for the position of Chair of the Board, Mr. Jim Cheng for the position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, and Mr. John King for the position of Vice Chair for Regional Councils.

Ms. Beal noted that the floor remained open for member nominations. No other nominations were made, and the floor was closed.

For the position of Chair, the Board elected Ms. Emily O'Quinn.

For the Position of Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, the Board elected Mr. Jim Cheng.

For the Position of Vice Chair of Regional Councils, the Board elected Mr. John King.

Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the consent agenda, including the June 10, 2025, meeting minutes, the FY25 Region 4 Capacity Building Budget Approval, the 2026 State Board Quarterly Meeting Calendar, the Regional Council Certifications, an Amendment to Board Policy #3, and an Amendment to Board Policy #9, would be voted on as a block.

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Mr. King to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report

Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, provided a brief overview of the application review process for GO Virginia grant applications.

Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 9 Per Capita applications regarding cluster scale-up, startup ecosystems, and workforce development: Hampton Roads Advanced Manufacturing Modernization with Emerging Robotics (HAMMER) Program from Region 5, Project Rise from Region 2, Empowering Founders Through Every Stage from Region 4, Say Yes to LYH Region from Region 2, UWCV Childcare & Workforce Development Project from Region 2, Energy Resilience and sustainability (ERAS) Program from Region 5, FAA Uncrewed Aerial Systems College Initiative and Talent Pipeline from Region 5, Cybersecurity Dual Enrollment Program

from Region 8, and Rockbridge Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development from Region 8.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

After discussion, a motion was made by Speaker Scott and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed.

Ms. Dunnigan provided the Board with an overview of Board Policy #14, the Maximum Regional Per Capita Carryover Allowance. Ms. Dunnigan noted that GO Virginia Region 5 and GO Virginia Region 7 had balances in their per capita allocation in excess of one full year's allocation, and that excess would be swept into the GO Virginia Competitive Fund for all GO Virginia Regions to access.

Governance and Policy
Committee Report

Ms. O'Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, provided updates on the July meeting of the Committee.

Ms. O'Quinn reported that the Committee discussed a JLARC recommendation to reduce local match requirements. Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Committee recognized recent legislative changes that eased the burden of local match and therefore chose not to bring a policy recommendation forward to the Board.

Ms. O'Quinn also reported that the Committee discussed a JLARC recommendation to increase the amount of money that each Region may use for planning purposes from \$250,000 to 25% of their allocation. Ms. O'Quinn noted that the topic would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Committee brought forward a recommended change for Board Policy #3, which exempted site planning from the regional planning limits, noting the emerging need for the identification of the next generation of site investments. This change was approved as part of the consent agenda.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that any member interested in serving as the Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee should approach her and that the position would be appointed at the next meeting of the Board.

Regional Councils
Committee Report

Ms. O'Quinn recognized Mr. John King to provide a report for the Regional Councils Committee.

Mr. King reported that the Committee was targeting a meeting date in October to discuss several items, including the Regional Growth and Diversification Plan updates, the recent changes to Board Policy #3 and Board Policy #9, and to discuss Regional Self-Assessment Surveys.

Information Items

Ms. O'Quinn recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide an overview of the information items. Ms. Dunnigan noted that in the Board Packet, members can find a list of DHCD administratively approved items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.