VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY IN EACH REGION

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

September 15, 2026
9:30 AM
Brightpoint Community College
13101 Route 1
Chester, Virginia

Members Present	Members Absent
Cliff Fleet	Senator L. Louise Lucas
Heywood Fralin	
Joel Griffin	
Senator L. Louise Lucas	

Call to Order	Mr. Cliff Fleet, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board of Governance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order.
Roll Call	Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.
Public Comment	Mr. Fleet opened the floor for public comment. No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period. The public comment period was closed.
Consent Agenda	Mr. Fleet noted that the consent agenda includes the minutes of the May 19, 2026, meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Senator Lucas to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.

Staff Report

Mr. Fleet noted that during the March 24, 2026, meeting of the GO Virginia State Board, the Board discussed the efficacy of talent attraction and retention related efforts. As part of that discussion, the Board referred the topic to the Governance and Policy Committee for further consideration.

Mr. Fleet welcomed Debbie Melvin, Vice President of Talent and Partnerships, to present on the topic.

Mr. Fleet recognized Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD to provide a brief overview of talent attraction and retention efforts that have been funded by the GO Virginia program to date.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Fralin and seconded by Senator Lucas to advance a recommendation to the GO Virginia Board to pause funding future talent attraction initiatives focused on talent attraction portals until metrics and outcomes of existing funded projects have been reported to the Board. The motion passed.

Mr. Fleet recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide information on the Strategic Cluster Advancement for Leading Energy (SCALE) Board referred scope and budget categories for alignment and review agenda topic.

Ms. Dunnigan noted that at the June 9, 2026, meeting of the Board, the Board considered a cluster scale-up project known as SCALE. The project included several budget categories, including trade shows, conferences and trade show travel, contract services for external lead generation consultants, computer and software costs, and salaries for personnel. Ms. Dunnigan noted that the workgroup review committee for the project recommended a smaller award and scope and recommended the remaining scope items be referred to the Governance and Policy Committee for review.

After discussion, the committee chose to direct DHCD staff to issue guidance to clarify that cluster scale-up projects should be focused on a primary activity with marketing being a qualifying supporting activity for the initiative and that projects that are focused predominantly on marketing shall not be considered eligible for GO Virginia funding.

Information Items	Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Board Membership and Turnover Report. Mr. Anderson noted that one member's term had expired: Mr. Kenneth Johnson. Mr. Anderson described several members whose terms were subject to expiration during the 2026-2027 fiscal year: Mr. Jonathan Peterson (2026), Mr. Heywood Fralin (2027), Mr. Benjamin Davenport (2027), Ms. Nancy Agee (2027), Ms. Emily O'Quinn (2027), and Mr. Cliff Fleet (2027). Mr. Anderson described several new Board appointments since the May 19, 2026, Committee meeting, including Secretary Carrie Chenery, Secretary Katie Frazier, Secretary Jessica Looman, and Secretary Jeffrey Smith. Additionally, Mr. Anderson noted that the Governor had reappointed Mr. John King to the Board. In addition, Mr. Anderson noted that in the convening time since the Committee packet was finalized and published, the Governor appointed Dr. McKinley Price to the Board. Mr. Fleet noted that the final item in the agenda was information on the Governance and Policy Committee meeting schedule.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned.