

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY
TO THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

James Monroe Building

Richmond, VA 23218-2120

Jefferson Conference Rooms B & C

MINUTES

March 7, 2014

Persons in attendance:

Committee Members

Dr. Thomas Brewster (Chair)
Ms. Betsy Mathias
Mr. Maurice Oliver
Ms. Katharine Parrish
Dr. Marcia Gail Derrick
Ms. Annette Loschert
Ms. Elaine Callahan
Ms. Bette Sneed
Mr. E. Denton Sisk
Dr. Susan Clair (Ex-Officio)

DOE/OAEL Staff

Mr. Thomas Suh
Mr. James André
Dr. C. “Mike” Nusbaum
Ms. Melissa Dixon

Other Participants

Mr. George Bailey
Mr. Jurriaan van den Hurk

CALL TO ORDER

- Dr. Brewster called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Opening Statement

- Dr. Brewster welcomed the committee and introduced the committee members and Department of Education (DOE) Office of Adult Education and Literacy (OAEL) staff.

Advisory Committee Member Terms – Dr. Brewster

- The committee was notified of upcoming term expirations of its members. Members were reminded that they would be eligible for reappointment if they have not already served two consecutive terms.

Approval of Minutes (October 18, 2013)

- Mr. Sisk made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2013, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Derrick and carried unanimously. Copies of the minutes had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

Public Comment

- No public comments were received.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

2014 Legislative Update

- Dr. Clair provided an update on 2014 General Assembly bills affecting adult education and literacy. HB1007 (Byron) replaces references to a General Education Development (GED) program or test throughout the *Code* with "a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education." HB1009 (Byron) changes the structure of the current Virginia Workforce Council, and recasts it as the Virginia Board of Workforce Development in addition to creating several new positions. No significant impacts on adult education are expected from this bill.

GED Credentialing™ Update

- Dr. Nusbaum, Dr. Clair, and Ms. Elaine Callahan provided an update on the GED Credentialing™ service. It was reported that the transition to this service has been a success with only minor challenges, and that many users had opted to receive electronic transcripts instead of paper copies of transcripts.

2014 GED® Program

- Dr. Nusbaum, Dr. Clair, and Ms. Elaine Callahan provided an update on the transition to the 2014 GED® Program. Several issues were addressed, including fourth time test takers, the Individual Student Alternative Education Program (GED® Options) program, “free” versus “discounted” re-tests, the extension of time on the math portion of the test, and the retention of VDOE GED® testing records. An overview of the various Web-based applications used with the 2014 test was also provided.

Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center Report

- Mr. Maurice Oliver presented the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center (VALRC) annual professional development report.
- Ms. Bette Sneed inquired about the VALRC’s use of the Electronic Registrar Online data, and if the data could be easily transferred to the state Knowledge Center system.
- Dr. Clair stated that OAEL and VALRC have continued to collaborate on the development of an action plan. The action plan will replace the traditional Request for Proposal process.

PluggedInVA

- Mr. André provided an update on the expansion of the PluggedInVA program. He also discussed the PluggedIn partnerships with the Virginia Employment Commission Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

Quarterly Desk Review, 2012-2013 Performance Targets

- Mr. Suh, Mr. Bailey, and Ms. Dixon provided an update on the progress of Quarterly Desk Reviews. The Desk Reviews facilitate progress tracking with regard to federal performance targets. Several committee members noted that the field would greatly benefit from receiving progress reports even if they are incomplete due to the potential for their perceived importance to diminish.

General Achievement Adult High School Diploma

- Dr. Nusbaum provided a brief update regarding the General Achievement Diploma (GAD). The GAD is now the General Achievement Adult High School Diploma (GAAHSD) and the requirements of the diploma have changed slightly. The GAAHSD requires that students meet all the requirements of the GAD in addition to obtaining a Career and Technical Education credential.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Advisory Board Initiatives for 2014-2015, discussion by the Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy

- An inquiry was made regarding the scope of the powers of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Brewster clarified that the committee can recommend action to the Virginia Board of Education.
- Dr. Brewster and Dr. Clair will provide a report to the Board of Education in April regarding the transition of the 2002 GED testing series to the 2014 GED[®] Program.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy to the Virginia Board of Education will be Friday, October 17, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 2 p.m.