

VACEG  
DeeVa's Delights Catering Meeting Room, Richmond, Virginia  
Minutes  
May 29, 2007

Members present:

Adams, Nancy	Richmond, Kitty
Carey, Virginia	Roalf, Sheila
Fithian, Ellen	Roberts-Gabay, Downey
Greathouse, Judi	Snyder, Earl
Green-flint, Jennifer	Sterbutzel, Diane
Grillo, Ruth	Turley, Margaret
McGonagill, Barbara	Ward, Pamela
Pace, Brian	

Jennifer Green-Flint called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The minutes of the December 1, 2006 meeting were approved with the additional note that Judi Greathouse was present at the Dec. 1 meeting.

The process for the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing Educational Services for the Education of the Gifted* was reviewed. The committee discussed the possible implications of the proposed revisions. The proposed revisions will be presented to the Board of Education on May 30, 2007. Issues discussed by the committee included:

- School divisions may see the new requirements as a burden on resources; it may be perceived as an unfunded mandate
- Concern that the VDOE will no longer have approval of the plans and consequently have no oversight of the gifted programs
- Concern that compliance will be difficult to assess legally; definitions may be open to legal challenge
- The regulations are more consonant with programs in the lower grades
- Concern that the annual screening of students in all grades may not be possible, even though it is now a requirement
- Continued confusion between the terms "screening" and "referral;" consider putting a schematic diagram into the *Virginia Plan for the Education of the Gifted* for clarification of the process
- There are no ramifications for school divisions who do not submit local plans to the VDOE
- It is specified that the Local Advisory Committees (LAC) be appointed by the school boards, which may help ensure adequate representation of the districts
- Consider adding socio-economic status as a category of representation on the LAC
- Concern that the requirement for the annual approval of local plans by the school boards may be less effective or less feasible than the current 5-year review and approval process

- Concern that if the VDOE no longer is responsible for approving local plans, the plans would be taken less seriously and the VDOE would not be able to continue to provide support when questions of compliance arise
- Discussion that the local school boards may need to look more closely at how they are using their funding in order to meet the requirements of the revised regulations (Dr. McGonagill will provide the link to the funding section of the VDOE Web site)
- Question on the definition of business days
- Question as to why achievement tests have been eliminated from the criteria considered for eligibility (to forestall inappropriate use of SOL data)

General discussion of proposed revisions to the *Virginia Plan for the Education of the Gifted* to correlate it to the *Regulations* included the following comments:

- The first emphasis should be on the services provided, with the identification section following
- Consider consolidation of some sections in the table of contents
- Include more resources for parents
- Post the *Virginia Plan* on the Web; discuss version control with the Office of Policy
- Provide an explanation in the introduction of how the *Virginia Plan* is related to the Code of Virginia
- Items that change often, such as resources or funding, should be moved to the appendix so that they can be updated more easily

Subcommittees met to begin the process of revising the *Virginia Plan for the Gifted* to ensure that it will be consistent with the updated *Regulations*.

Ruth Grillo and Barbara McGonagill presented the Department of Education reports, including an update on the data collection and probable fourth year extension of the Project PROMISE grant, the current status of the review of Local Plans, and the current status of the Governor's Schools. Members were offered the opportunity to be involved with the evaluation process for the summer Governor's Schools. The University of Richmond has announced that it will no longer host the Summer Residential Governor's School for Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts after summer 2008; proposals are being accepted for alternate sites. Dr. McGonagill presented the members of the committee with copies of the *State of the States* report compiled by the National Association for Gifted Children, and indicated that she would provide the next version after it becomes available in October.

A Superintendent's Memo will be released shortly seeking new members for the VACEG who have expertise in specific areas or who represent specific geographic regions. Dr. McGonagill will send out the Web link to the memo. Members may be re-nominated to serve a second term.

Members of the committee gave brief updates from their representative groups. Nancy Adams indicated that Newport News is revising their Local Plan.

Kitty Richmond reported that Hampton has developed a pre-Governor's School program for their ninth and tenth grade students.

Judi Greathouse reported that the Mountain Vista Governor's School has successfully completed its first year.

Brian Pace indicated that a conference will be held in June for Governor's School teachers.

Margaret Turley reported on a partnership being developed between Bedford and the Central Virginia Community College to enable high school students to receive Associate's Degrees from the community college at the same time that they receive their high school diplomas.

Diane Sterbutzel reported on administrative changes in Manassas.

Jennifer Green-Flint provided an update on the new president at Shenandoah University.

Sheila Roalf indicated that Prince George is initiating a middle school IB program.

Ginny Carey reported that Virginia colleges are encouraging students to apply earlier.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.