

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted**  
Minutes for September 27, 2013

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on September 27, 2013 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Margee Greenfield, Sandra Cole, Hunter Routt, Jan Robertson, Stephen Keith, Sarah Gross, Rebecca Akers, Lesley Hunley, Lori Vaught, Chiraag Khemlani, Patty Griffin, Beth Andersen, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Elizabeth Schupp, Reginald Johns, Catherine Ingrassia, Donna Poland

Members absent: Carol Horn, Joanne Funk, Gena Keller

Rebecca Akers opened the meeting at 10:05 am.

Approval of the Agenda: Lori Vaught moved approval of the agenda, Margee Greenfield seconded. All were in favor.

Motion to Elect Officers: Sandra Cole moved to elect Rebecca Akers as Chair, Carol Horn as Vice-Chair, and Sarah Gross as Secretary, Catherine Ingrassia seconded. All were in favor.

Department of Education report - Dr. Donna Poland

- New coordinators meeting last week - 26 in attendance but 5 more unable to attend. The majority of new coordinators are wearing multiple hats. Some individuals have backgrounds in gifted education - most do not, which presents challenges when moving forward with program, identifications, etc.
- Gifted Educators Consortium Conference – Panels presented an interesting variety of professional development options in order to get training to teachers. Student growth was also presented as a panel discussion. During the panel discussions, “TodaysMeet” was offered so people could comment to the moderator and the panels. The panel discussion also incorporated tweets. The functionality of ‘TodaysMeet’ allows set up of a virtual room for a meeting so you can go back and revisit posts people shared for a limited time after the conference. 113 participants were registered.
- Academic Year Governor's School Directors meeting – Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools (FOVGS) supported the creation of a brochure on all AYGS programs in general (the brochure passed around the meeting). FOVGS is looking at ways to impact funding given how much is happening outside realm of Governor's schools. Donna spoke to Senate Finance committee 9/26/13 on issues specific to funding. Questions were raised on the funding formula and structure of AYGS funding. Additional topics of discussion:

-Governor's Schools do not receive same mandates as public schools - such as 2% increase in teacher pay, 5% VRS support, etc.

-Discussion about the funding of AYGS for students coming from affluent vs. less affluent school districts.

-The funding formula was established in 1986.

- STEM-related AYGS program is in the planning stages in Norfolk/Portsmouth through a funded planning grant. Virginia Beach has signed on to support the program, which is set to begin in 2015.
- Southwest Governor's School received expansion grant last year (Pulaski). The program is planning to move to full day program for Grades 11 and 12. They are planning to add 10th grade to full day in the following year. Center for Talent Development at Northwestern has online college curriculum programs that have been specifically developed for gifted students. Currently, Southwest GS is working with Northwestern on the option for specific courses for their program.
- VAG conference in Williamsburg, VA on October 17-19, 2013. Online registration is available. New executive director, Lori Lenz, would like to come to our December meeting. NAGC is hosting national meeting in Baltimore 2014. Maryland will work as the local state organization to facilitate the national meeting and NAGC is asking Virginia's VAG to assist in similar fashion.
- A report, through National Science Foundation (still under review for publication), looked at specialized schools in science and technology. There were 25 schools, members of consortium of specialized secondary schools, which participated in the study. One finding of the study indicated that 48% of students who went to these specialized schools went on to graduate in STEM related fields in college vs. 22% of students who attended a regular high school. Regardless of the program model students went through (residential, full day, half day, school w/in school), there was no significant difference between the number of students continuing in STEM careers.
- Teacher licensure updates – The proposed changes to the gifted education teacher endorsement requirements and teacher competencies have not been 'opened' for public comment. They are still moving through the sign-off process. Forms were revised and put before the board on May 23, 2013. Endorsement requirements on p. 62 and competency requirements begin on p. 92 of agenda items J and K respectively. There are strikethroughs so changes can be seen. Donna Poland asked the group to review and make suggestions once the proposed changes are 'opened' for public comment.
- Charge from Board of Education: Middle School Opportunities. VACEG was requested to make a document similar to the High School Opportunities document, but for middle school.

Group reviewed high school level document previously created including charge, questions, and areas of study. It was noted how well this document was received by BOE.

In order to determine course of action for new Middle School Opportunities document, minutes from April, 2013 meeting were reviewed:

Begin with grades 6-8. Build off the high school document:

- Come up with the categories as a group. Add instructional technologies into all area. Include STEM initiative in various areas.
- This needs to be at the same level of comprehensiveness as the high school document.
- Categories may include: enrichment opportunities, summer opportunities, outside the classroom, in school/beyond school, technology, if by content area include an interdisciplinary strand, preparation for high school, and social-emotional issues.

The group then discussed possible topics for inclusion:

Intention of the document: Provide info to school administration and divisions. Highlight differentiated opportunities for gifted students. Also, parents may read it to see what kind of things are out there. Audience - counselors, guidance, parents, administration. Be sure to define middle school in introduction.

Three areas of focus were discussed: Academics, Social/emotional, Enrichment. Title for the document was discussed: "Maximizing potential for Gifted Middle School students". Other titles were discussed. The committee did not decide on a final title.

Final divisions for report:

- Academics - to include CTE
- Guidance/Counseling - mentorship programs/academic and career planning
- Enrichment - in and beyond classroom

Group assignments as follows:

Academics: Catherine Ingrassia, Reginald Johns, Elizabeth Schupp, Beth Anderson  
Guidance/Counseling: Margie Greenfield, Sandra Cole, Hunter Routt, Jan Robertson, Stephen Keith

Enrichment: Sarah Gross, Rebecca Akers, Lesley Hunley, Lori Vaught, Chiraag Khemlani, Patty Griffin

Small groups split up to discuss areas for inclusion in each area of report.

### Member Reports:

Patty Griffin, Henrico - contracted with Joy Davis-Lawson on underrepresented populations and providing training on culturally diverse populations. Also, Henrico is conducting parent workshops to help parents navigate the educational landscape.

Chiraag Khemlani, Business Representative - pass

Lori Vaught, VSBA - Thanked group for opportunity to serve as this is her last meeting. She will be training new member from VSBA.

Lesley Hunley, Mathews- will be hosting Board President David Foster for forum on November 14th. Region 3 welcomed several new coordinators and set up meetings over the course of the year.

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick - New training with coordinators and professional development. Regions 7 and 8 are going through a technical review of each other's local gifted plans on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah Gross, VAPTA - pass

Jan Robertson, Amelia - New leadership and expanding gifted into arts, etc. She is working to help improve identification process.

Hunter Routt, Salem City – The region is in final discussions with Joe Renzulli to do a parent night and teacher professional development opportunity - as well as student groups. Dates may be in April. IB International conference will be in DC next summer.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School - NASA Governor's School was very successful. Research students did in mentorships was very advanced and many students continue to work for remainder of the summer. The program was fortunate to have W&M become fiscal agent. Summer Residential GS directors are getting together next week for a meeting.

Sandra Cole, Buchanan – Appreciative of Region 6 who invited her area to their professional development which helps with current economic restraints. New representations in Region 7 as so many people have been reassigned. Region 7 has 19 different school divisions. Changing their professional development in June from just keynote to breaking into smaller groups based on local issues.

Beth Anderson, Prince George – New goal is for every identified gifted student to embark on independent study. Introduced those ideas to cluster teachers in order to develop goals for gifted students and incorporate the goals through curriculum.

Catherine Ingrassia, VCU and Hanover County Advisory Committee - HCAC met to discuss goal of advocacy and communication. One subcommittee will be middle school delivery.

Reginald Johns, Hampton City - pass

Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Suffolk - 2nd year of changing gifted education in middle school. MS generally have no accelerated programming. Change the look of gifted to have more acceleration not just enrichment -- currently writing curriculum, etc. These changes are occurring in social studies and science.

Elizabeth Schupp, Amherst -Whole group testing for gifting in 6th grade as well as 2nd grade. Hoping to identify kids they are underrepresented since many kids come to school with learning gap.

Donna Poland distributed *Virginia Living* which featured "State of Education in Virginia" focusing on Virginia's top high schools and colleges. Magazine was also distributed to Senators.

There was no public comment.

Next Steps:

Small groups asked to research area of discussion as it relates to questions.

Next meeting:

December 6th at 10 A.M. - Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

On a motion by Sarah Gross, seconded Lesley Hunley; the meeting adjourned at 2:45.