

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted
Friday April 17, 2015
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Minutes

Present: Melissa Powers, Margee Greenfield, Patty Griffin, Janice Robertson, Beth Andersen, Cheryl McCullough, Kimberly Waite, Donna Poland, Elizabeth Schupp, Carol Horn, Lesley Hunley, Teresa Ellison, Kevin Kendall, and Robert Hundley

Visitors: Rachel Price and Charles Watson, Assessment Solutions Consultants from McGraw Hill Education

Absent: Melanie Daniel, Catherine Ingrassia, Sarah Gross, Reginald Johns, Sandra Cole, Stephen Keith, Jennifer Sublett-Williams

10:15—Call to Order: Motion to approve agenda: Moved Robert Hundley; seconded Patty Griffin.

Donna Poland started the meeting by turning it over to Committee Chair, Carol Horn.

Donna recognized Carol Horn and Margie Greenfield for serving six years on the committee. She also thanked the other committee members who were not present and who are not returning next year: Sarah Gross, Catherine Ingrassia, Stephen Keith and Reginald Johns.

Carol Horn presented the slate of officers for 2015-2016 school year. Lesley Hunley as Committee Chair, Patty Griffin as Vice Chair, Cheryl McCullough as secretary.

Motion to accept the slate: Moved: Elizabeth Schupp, Seconded: Beth Anderson
Donna explained that the slate would be approved at the first meeting in the fall.

Updates from the Department of Education:

State budget has been approved. Academic year Governor's Schools (about a \$75.00 per pupil increase) did see slight increase because of the 1.5 % increase in teachers' raises.

Appropriation Act called for us to develop a model proposal for Career and Technical Education. Hanover County won this and preliminary drafts were recently presented. Not looking at specific career and tech area but will include anyone who is gifted in a certain area: welding, marketing. Project based learning activity for approximately 2 – 3 weeks at a residential location. Guest speakers, field trips, overarching skill sets will be a focus.

Identification is still in discussion. Businesses shared checklists that they use for “star” employees with gifted identification but we are still working on gifted checklist.

July 1 is the goal to have this to Hanover School Board and to state board by end of August. Summer Regional Program (Region I and III) should be a replicable model for other parts of the state. Donna shared that she is hopeful that the first year would be summer 2016 for rising juniors and seniors. Site is being negotiated.

Applications will most likely be advertised in late fall.

Applicants will not have to be identified gifted. This may be something for counties/cities to consider for CTA identification (standardized testing and/or portfolio).

Summer Residential Governor's School

- Donna has been looking at number of applications per division over the last three years from each division; there are divisions that are not sending the number of applications they are allowed to send.
- Hoping to have some state funding and want to include in technical review. Want to meet with regional directors talking about issues facing the region specifically about applications for Governor's School.
- Focus on representation across the state in terms of acceptance.
- Question from Beth Andersen about the weighting of scores for VPA. Donna said that the adjudication scores carry the most weight on the VPA application (72 points out of 106)
- Donna shared that state is looking at going to a totally electronic system for Summer Residential Governor's School. Donna thinks the state adjudication process will include electronic scoring next year. There should be overall changes to the adjudication process next year based on the new director.
- Donna is also hoping to have a DVD to share with school systems to help with the marketing efforts for applications
- Review team was more involved in the Agriculture process and was looking at changes they would like to see in the application process. Changes will happen in other areas as well.

VACEG Update : looking for new members

- Donna put out a call for applications for committee members to serve on VACEG
Deadline is May 1

Fort Monroe/STEAM Academy Update:

- The Senate bill did not go through the General Assembly on crossover day. STEAM did receive \$100,000 to conduct a summer camp.

Committee Work:

Donna shared topics to be considered for next year. She asked the committee to divide into two groups and create a general description, timeline, outcomes on one of the following topics to share with the Board of Education:

- **Performance Based Assessments: Measuring Academic Growth for Gifted Learners**

Brief description and Rationale:

Virginia Regulations for Gifted require that school divisions monitor and assess the academic growth of gifted learners. The current focus on standardized testing is

inadequate. Standardized SOL tests aren't typically designed to document the growth of gifted learners. Research suggests that performance based assessments along a continuum from novice to expert are needed to document the growth in knowledge, skills and understandings of these advanced students.

This aligns with the current focus at the national level on talent development.

Anticipated Timeline: 2 years

Subtopics:

- What does the research say?
- What are current best practices in this area?
- What does this look like at the elementary, middle and high school level?
- Explore out of sequence/above grade level SOL testing

Outcomes:

- Recommendations at the state level accompanied by a guiding document for assessing growth of gifted learners
- Standardized performance based measure from the state in the four core content areas

- **Best Practices Across Virginia for Gifted Students**

Brief description and Rationale:

In 2014, The National Research Center on Gifted and Talented/ University of Virginia published an executive summary; National Surveys of Gifted Programs” that specifically addressed concerns facing gifted education today. National studies conducted during the last few decades have demonstrated both the need for and the benefits of gifted education programs. Most recently, political and budget implications have required school divisions to collaborate and network to explore service options for gifted students. School divisions across Virginia have long sought feasible options for serving gifted students.

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted would like to explore a variety of topics directly impacting school divisions’ gifted programs. We plan to identify specific school divisions that have addressed specific topics and implemented exemplary services within their gifted programs. Our plan is to visit specific school divisions and conduct interviews, observations and research.

Visit different locations to conduct in-depth examination of the following topics:

- College and Career Readiness
- Curriculum Models
- Program Models
- Identification Models for Finding Underrepresented Groups
- Professional Development for Teachers

Outcomes:

- By topic, produce a document that consists of an executive summary and in-depth examples of how some school divisions in Virginia that have developed strategies to successfully address the topic
- Develop a network for collaboration and discussion regarding these specific topics

Member Reports:

Patty Griffin – Henrico County Public Schools

- June 10th – division wide training on Project M3 and W & M Language Arts
- RFP on ability testing
- 6,000 identified students in Henrico

Leslie Hunley – Mathews County Public Schools

- Chesapeake Bay Governor's School names interim director, Doug Childers until a new director is hired
- Consortium meeting in Charlottesville Friday, September 18
- Survey of innovative programs in your division – please return to Ruth Grillo, VCGEA Chair, by May 1st

Melissa Powers – Brunswick County Public Schools

- Gifted Gallery to showcase year's program
- Gifted Night – three elementary schools – students would be recognized

Margee Greenfield – Director, Summer Residential Governor's School – NASA/VIMS

- Interviewed 7 applicants for the Governor's School based on suggestions from this group
- 18 students, geographic and ethnic diversity this year

Kim Waite – Middlesex County Public Schools

- Visiting Fairfax to see Young Scholars in action
- Middle Summer Governor's School – 9 counties within the region held in August – reviewing applications now

Kevin Kendall – Lexington City Schools

- Getting ready for Parent nights – gifted curriculum, social emotional needs of gifted, summer enrichment ideas
- Just hired person to be in charge of Instruction

Theresa Ellison – School Board member, Alleghany County Public Schools

- Jackson River Governor's School (Math/Science/Technology) – annual science fair

Carol Horn – Fairfax County Public Schools

- Just opened a new elementary Level IV center – Poplar Tree Elementary School
- Professional Development Institute – PD for teachers - June 2015 – three days in June

Cheryl McCullough – Arlington Public Schools

- Festival of the Minds - PD for teachers - four days at the end of June
- Superintendent Seminar – planning stages for rising Juniors and Seniors
- Summer Laureate – planning stages for three week summer program for grades K-4

Bob Hundley – School Board member, VSBA, Hanover County Public Schools

- Working on Career and Tech Ed Summer Regional Governor's School model proposal

Dates for next year's meetings were tentatively set as follows:

- Friday, September 25, 2015
- Friday, December 11, 2015
- Friday, February 19, 2016
- Friday, April 22, 2016

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30.