

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

September 22, 2017

Members Present

Shawanna Poarch, Valerie Tuck, Sarah Haywood, Dorn Wilkins-McCorey, Teresa Ellison, Janice Robertson, Sandra Cole, Melissa Powers, George Fohl, Donna Poland, Kim Waite, Dara Hall, Becky Dangerfield, Robert Hundley, Mandy Barrett, and Kirsten Maloney

Welcome and Introductions

- George Fohl called the meeting to order
- Members introduced themselves and welcomed new members Becky Dangerfield and Mandy Barrett
- Members approved agenda, the approval was unanimous
- Elections for 2017-2018 office were held, the following were unanimously approved:
 - Patty Griffin – Chair
 - George Fohl – Vice Chair
 - Sarah Haywood – Secretary

Department of Education Report from Dr. Donna Poland

- General Updates
 - Va. Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators annual meeting was held last week in Charlottesville. Approximately twenty new coordinators attended Dr. Poland's introductory session. Statewide, 38% of gifted coordinators are endorsed in gifted education, and most have the responsibility of gifted services added in addition to supervising many other departments.
 - Patty Griffin will present the VACEG's document "Increasing Diversity in Gifted Education Programs in Virginia" to the Board of Education on September 28.
 - During the summer, two meetings on serving twice exceptional students in Roanoke and Richmond were well-received by gifted and special education staff members who attended. Dr. Poland and Dr. Lee are presenting a similar program for private school administrators next week. It has been good to begin this dialogue, and a similar program may be offered next summer.
- Academic Year Governor's Schools
 - Changes will be made to the adjudication schedule this year- Northern Va. schools will be held on January 6 at George Mason University, Tidewater schools will be held on January 12 and 13 at the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, and Western Va. schools will be held on January 20 at Radford University.
 - Scores will be communicated electronically; there will be a spreadsheet for this instead of additional pages to attach to the individual student packets.
 - Fees have not been set, yet, but there will be an increase after many years of remaining unchanged.
 - VDOE is hosting a conference for AYGS teachers on October 20-21, 2017 and Rena Subotnik and David Daniels will speak.
- Summer Regional Governor's Schools summer events went well and plans for the new year are moving forward.
- NAGC annual convention will be in Charlotte in November. Dr. Poland hopes to attend the

preconference meetings with other state gifted coordinators.

- Wallace Research Symposium will be held in Baltimore on April 29-May 1, Dr. Poland has found this to be a powerful presentation of new research, conversation, and discussion.
- VAG will hold its annual conference in Norfolk, VA on October 23 and 24, Dr. Richard Cash and Dr. Carol Horn will be keynote speakers. There will be six breakout sessions with over 60 choices of sessions, and an “Edcamp” opportunity to “unconference” with colleagues.

Charge from the Board of Education:

- Dr. Poland shared that the BOE’s vision for the VACEG was not solely to produce documents, but to also act as a group that advised the Board on policies and issues related to gifted education.
- Group had discussion of ideas and how this might fit with the suggestions for the VACEG last spring.
- Members brainstormed, discussed, and crafted a general statement that may serve as the charge:
“The VACEG shall advise the Board of Education with respect to policies that promote equitable access to effective gifted programming. The VACEG shall recommend guidelines for school divisions to measure gifted student outcomes across subgroups over time, improve teacher professional development, and facilitate communication with community stakeholders.”

Reports from Members/Representative Groups

- Sandra Cole: Pass
- George Fohl: Chesterfield’s gifted education office has a partnership with its Office of Family and Community Engagement and he has developed a brief video for families that includes information about gifted referrals, programs, and services; in December a community engagement session will be on gifted education services.
- Sarah Haywood: York’s Gifted Education Advisory Committee sponsors annual parent speaker evenings and one is planned related to preparing gifted students for the college application process by Dr. Ellen Fithian; York is part of an annual Region 2 community advisory meeting when members from all of the region’s parent groups have an opportunity to meet and discuss issues, this year’s meeting will include round table sessions and a high school student panel.
- Dorn Wilkins-McCorey: Virginia Beach is holding a parent conference on November 4 with a focus on social and emotional needs as a result of sending staff members to the national SENG conference in Chicago this past summer; the partnership with Francis Land House and the SAPLINGS program is expanding this year to include both Title 1 schools and former Title 1 schools.
- Kirsten Maloney: Fairfax has seen an increase in collaboration between content areas and AAP with the new district learning model featuring elements like concept-based instruction, PBL, and working towards Capstone Projects at benchmark grade levels. There is a coaching focus for elementary advanced academic resource teachers to help teachers develop these practices and strategies.
- Valerie Tuck: Norfolk’s gifted resource teachers are partnering with Brandon Butler from ODU for four 2-hour sessions of professional development that will assist with coaching strategies.
- Jan Robertson: Dr. Robertson suggests two resources for school divisions with a PBL focus: The Keep Virginia Beautiful has been revitalized and the Richmond Audubon Society is a great resource for

students, too.

- Melissa Powers: Brunswick gifted students in grades 1-5 have five planned field trips scheduled; the increase in number of identified students is due in part to using the NNAT when screening and determining eligibility.
- Kim Waite: Richmond Montessori School sent a group of middle school girls to participate in the “Capital One Coders” free event in Charlottesville.
- Dara Hall: Juniors and Seniors from Massanutten Regional Governor’s School went to Tennessee for four days during the recent solar eclipse; Rockingham County Schools are in the fourth year of its digital conversion, and all students have been given Chromebooks which has had a positive impact on instruction.
- Teresa Ellison: pass
- Shawanna Poarch: Pass
- Mandy Barrett: Southwest Virginia Governor’s School offers a cybersecurity track that has sponsorship from businesses to help students achieve the CompTIA IT Certifications.
- Becky Dangerfield: Pass

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Final Thoughts

- Upcoming meeting dates
 - December 1, 2017
 - February 9, 2018
 - April 20, 2018

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM
- Executive Committee Meeting with 2017-2018 officers followed