

**ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION
AND LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING**

MINUTES

Meeting Date and Location: January 14, 2008
Holiday Inn Select - Koger Center
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Jeffrey Arco	Linda Kelly	Ann Y. Williams
Rene Massey Ashjian	Mary Kolman	Dr. Philip Worrell
Cynthia D. Baird	Dawn Rees-Blakeman	
Tracey Dingus	Gloria Talbott	
Dr. William H. Graves, III	Angela S. Turley	
Dr. Carole C. Grove	Rena' White	

ABTEL Members Absent: Diane Bialkowski
Dr. Nancy M. Davenport
Dr. Betty Hobbs
Valeria C. Porter
Susan K. Shoap

Board of Education Liaison: Dr. Ella P. Ward

Ex-Officio Member: Dr. Gary Krapf
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Bill Hightower for Dr. Susan Wood
Virginia Community College System

Patty S. Pitts
Virginia Department of Education

Department of Education Staff: Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver
Dr. James Lanham

Guests: Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association
Greg Pels, Virginia Department of Education
Thomas R. Smigiel, Jr., 2008 Virginia Teacher of the Year

FULL BOARD CONVENES

- **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

- **Introduction of Guests**

Linda Kelly acknowledged guests to the Advisory Board.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Rena' White made a motion to approve the agenda. Angela Turley seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Carole Grove made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2007, Advisory Board meeting. Rena' White seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Public Comment**

No individuals requested to speak during the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE FULL BOARD

Presentation from the 2008 Virginia Teacher of the Year

Linda Kelly introduced Mr. Thomas R. Smigiel, Jr., 2008 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Norview High School, Norfolk City Public Schools.

Thomas R. "Tommy" Smigiel, Jr., a Leadership and Earth Science teacher at Norview High School in Norfolk, was named 2008 Virginia Teacher of the Year in September, 2007. He recently has been named one of four finalists in the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Teacher of the Year program, which is sponsored by the ING Foundation. Mr. Smigiel made an excellent presentation, sharing his philosophy and experiences in teaching.

Virginia Teacher Retention and Recruitment Initiatives

Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and licensure, gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing teacher retention and recruitment initiatives currently underway in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure. The

following were among the initiatives highlighted: Virginia Teaching and Scholarship Loan Program; TeachVirginia Educator Recruitment Project; Career Switcher Program; National Board Certification; Department of Education Funded Special Education Programs; Statewide Recognition Programs (Meritorious New Teacher Designation; Regional Teachers of the Year; State Teacher of the Year; Milken Educators); Middle School Teacher Corps; Mentoring Programs; and Mentoring Programs in Hard-to-Staff Schools.

Virginia General Assembly Overview

Patty Pitts presented an overview of selected bills relevant to teacher education and licensure under consideration by the General Assembly. ABTEL members may track bills at the following Virginia Department of Education Web site link:
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/PolicyPub/legis98/home.html>.

Additional Comments (TEACH Grants)

Patty Pitts recognized Dr. William Graves' appointment as a primary, nonfederal negotiator for proposed regulations for the student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended in 2007. Dean Graves is one of four primary, nonfederal negotiators representing four-year public institutions. Dr. Graves and the other primary, nonfederal negotiators will propose regulations to implement the elements of Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Regulations will be proposed to establish (1) teacher education assistance for colleges and higher education (TEACH) grants for undergraduate and graduate students who agree to serve as teachers in high-need schools and fields; and (2) grants to recruit teachers with mathematics, science, or language majors. Dean Graves was appointed to this position because of state and national leadership positions he has held in teacher education and his service on the Advisory Board of the Teacher Education and Licensure of the Virginia Department of Education.

When implemented the TEACH Grants program will enable eligible undergraduate teacher education students to receive TEACH grants up to \$16,000 and eligible graduate students to receive TEACH grants up to \$8,000.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Teacher Education Committee and the Professional Licensure Committee met from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

LUNCH

Members of the Advisory Board convened for a working lunch.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Teacher Education Committee

Dr. William Graves presented the report of the Teacher Education Committee.

Agenda Item 1: Continued Review and Discussion of the draft Implementation Manual for the Regulations Governing Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia

- Dr. William Graves reported that the Teacher Education Committee recommended that ABTEL support the draft *Implementation Manual for the Regulations Governing Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*. By consensus, ABTEL supported the document.

Teacher Licensure Committee

Jeffrey Arco presented the report from the Professional Licensure Committee.

Agenda Item 1: Presentation on National Board Certification in Virginia

The Teacher Licensure Committee received a report on National Board Certification in Virginia presented by Gregory Pels, Coordinator of National Board Certification, Virginia Department of Education.

Agenda Item 2: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Follow-Up and Discussion

The Teacher Licensure Committee continued discussion on recruitment and retention initiatives presented earlier to the full ABTEL.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Dr. Bill Hightower reported the following information on behalf of the Virginia Community College system:

1. The VCCS Career Switcher Program is experiencing an increase in the number of students pursuing endorsements in English as a Second Language and Mathematics.
2. The VCCS Early Childhood Education faculty continue to work on curriculum, including Web site development in this area.
3. A project is underway to revise course content in the EDU 200: "Introduction to Teaching as a Profession" education course to align course content with the new

licensure regulations. This course provides an early field experience to prospective teachers in Virginia's community colleges.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Dr. Gary Krapf reported the following information regarding the work of SCHEV.

1. The SCHEV Council recently recommended support of an initiative at Virginia Commonwealth University that will assist in addressing the nursing shortage in Virginia.
2. SCHEV will collaborate with the Department of Education in implementing the National Governors Association Grants for new career and technology academies.

Department of Education

Patty Pitts announced that the Teachers of Promise Institute (TOP) will be held this year under the leadership of the Virginia Milken Educator Network and the James Madison Center at JMU. The 2008 TOP Institute will be held Friday, February 29, to Saturday, March 1, 2008, at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.