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

MINUTES

Meeting Date and Location: April 20, 2009
DoubleTree Hotel – Richmond Airport
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Jeffrey Arco	Dr. William H. Graves, III	Susan Shoap
Debra Abadie	Dr. Carole C. Grove	Angela S. Turley
Rene Massey Ashjian	Charlotte B. Hayer	Ann Y. Williams
Cynthia D. Baird	Dr. Betty E. Hobbs	
Susan E. Bridges	Lawrence Lenz	
Tracey L. Dingus	Valeria Porter	
Jaim L. Foster	Dawn Rees-Blakeman	

ABTEL Members Absent: Dr. Phillip Worrell

Board of Education Liaison: Dr. Ella P. Ward

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

Bill Hightower
Virginia Community College System

Patty S. Pitts
Virginia Department of Education

Department of Education Staff: Dr. Pat Amann
Dr. James Lanham

Guests: Elisa Bennett, Seven Puentes
Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association
Beth Smith, Education Testing Services
Glen R. Slonneger, Virginia Department of the Blind and
Vision Impaired

FULL BOARD CONVENES

- **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Tracey Dingus, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

- **Introduction of Guests**

Tracey Dingus acknowledged guests to the Advisory Board.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Betty Hobbs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Charlotte Hayer seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Dawn Rees-Blakeman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009, Advisory Board meeting with the correction that Rene Massey Ashjian did not attend the March 16 meeting. Angela Turley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Public Comment**

No individuals requested to speak during the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE ITEMS TO THE FULL BOARD

- **Presentation from the 2009 Virginia Teacher of the Year**

Ms. Stephanie Doyle, the 2009 Virginia Teacher of the Year, made a presentation to the full board. Ms. Doyle is a teacher at Breckenridge Middle School in Roanoke. Her presentation focused on teaching in an urban school setting and the importance of building strong relationships with students. She shared success stories of a program she established -- "GROW"— Girls Rising Onto Womanhood -- that provides academic support and mentoring to young girls.

- **Report on ABTEL Accomplishments for the 2008-2009 School Year**

Ms. Tracey Dingus, Chair of ABTEL, summarized the major accomplishments of the Advisory Board during the 2008-2009 school year.

- **Approval of ABTEL Meeting Dates for 2009-2010**

Ms. Tracey Dingus, Chair of ABTEL, presented the following proposed meeting dates for 2009-2010:

September 21, 2009
November 16, 2009
January 25, 2010
March 15, 2010
April 19, 2010

Ann Williams made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2009-2010 Advisory Board meetings. Valeria Porter seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Report and Discuss on the 2008 General Assembly House Bill 2224 Regarding Teachers of Braille**

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, made a presentation and led an extensive discussion relating to the 2008 General Assembly House Bill 2224 regarding teachers of Braille. She reviewed the text of the bill that states that “by December 31, 2009, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, in consultation with the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, shall make recommendations to the Board of Education and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health regarding the certification of Braille instructors.” Mrs. Pitts and Glen Slonneger from the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired discussed the nature of Braille instruction in Virginia and reviewed data concerning those currently endorsed and teaching Braille. Information was provided regarding the National Literacy Braille Competency Test. Dr. Patricia Amann also presented information on the current Visual Impairment endorsement offered through a consortium of Virginia colleges and universities.

Due to the complexity of the issues raised and the short timeline available for action, a summer committee will convene to develop a recommendation for presentation at the September 2009 ABTEL meeting. Members of this committee will include staff members from the Department of Education and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. ABTEL members serving on this committee will be Tracy Dingus, Jaim Foster, Carol Grove, Dawn Rees-Blackmon, and Angela Turley.

- **Continued Discussion and Recommendation on the Assessment of Basic Skills for Entry Into a Virginia Approved Education Preparation Program**

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts provided an update regarding the Assessment of Basic Skills for Entry into a Virginia Approved Education Preparation Program. Additional information is needed from the testing providers before a recommendation can be made regarding this

issue. The topic will be reviewed and discussed further at the September 2009 ABTEL meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Teacher Education Committee and the Licensure Committee met from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 noon.

LUNCH

Members of the Advisory Board convened for a working lunch. During lunch, Mrs. Patty Pitts recognized four ABTEL members who will be retiring from ABTEL after today's meeting. ABTEL members recognized for their outstanding service were Rene Massey Ashjian, Cynthia D. Baird, Dr. William H. Graves, III, and Susan Shoap.

FULL BOARD RECONVENES

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Teacher Education Committee

Dr. Bill Graves presented the report from the Teacher Education Committee.

The Teacher Education Committee reviewed the reporting forms developed by the Department of Education for biennial data required for the review of each program. These data and the verification of compliance with accountability measures are due for the biennial period of July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2009, no later than August 7, 2009.

Licensure Committee

Mr. Jeff Arco presented the report from the Licensure Committee.

The Licensure Committee reviewed the process for the standard-setting and validation studies of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA). ABTEL should receive the report from the committee to make a recommendation on the passing score in September 2009.

The committee also reviewed information on additional standard-setting studies required for foreign languages and business education.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Mr. Bill Hightower provided the following information on Web resources:

- (1) Community college course offerings may be reviewed on the following Web site: <http://courses.vccs.edu/>. The site provides a searchable database.
- (2) Information on the VCCS's Career Switcher Program may be accessed at the following site: <http://myfuture.vccs.edu/switchers/>.
- (3) Individuals may refer to the *Virginia Education Wizard* at www.vawizard.org. This site helps individuals choose a career, get the information to pursue your career, enroll in one of Virginia's community colleges, pay for college, transfer to a four-year college or university, and obtain answers to questions about careers.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Dr. Gary Krapf reported that due to economic challenges, some positions at SCHEV would be eliminated.

SCHEV is using grant funding to support part of the *Virginia Education Wizard* initiative with interest in expanding the program to four-year institutions and adding a student planner component.

Recognition of Service of ABTEL Members

Dr. Ella Ward, Board of Education liaison to ABTEL, and Ms. Tracey Dingus, chair of ABTEL, thanked the members leaving ABTEL for their service to the Commonwealth.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.