

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Location:** April 19, 2010  
DoubleTree Hotel – Richmond Airport  
Richmond, Virginia

**ABTEL Members Present:**

Debra Abadie	Dr. Courtney Gaskins	Patricia McGloine
Jeffrey A. Arco	Dr. Carole C. Grove	Valeria C. Porter
Rena Berlin	Charlotte B. Hayer	Dawn Rees-Blakeman
Susan E. Bridges	Kathy Heil	Angela S. Turley
Tracey L. Dingus	Dr. Betty E. Hobbs	Dr. Philip L. Worrell
Jaim L. Foster	Dr. Susan G. Magliaro	

**ABTEL Members Absent:** Lawrence Lenz  
Ann Y. Williams

**Board of Education Liaison:** Dr. Ella P. Ward

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

Julia Tucker-Lloyd for Bill Hightower  
Virginia Community College System

Patty S. Pitts  
Virginia Department of Education

**Department of Education Staff:** Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver  
Dr. James W. Lanham, III

**Guests:** Cathy Owens-Oliver, Educational Testing Service  
Dr. Timothy G. O'Rourke, Virginia Wesleyan College  
Dr. Jayne Sullivan, Virginia Wesleyan College  
Rebecca Waters, Virginia Community College System  
Dr. Donna H. Watson, Bluefield College

## **FULL BOARD CONVENES**

- **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Tracey Dingus, 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**

Guests introduced themselves to the Advisory Board.

- **Approval of Agenda**

**Rena Berlin made a motion to approve the agenda. Dawn Rees-Blakeman seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Approval of Minutes**

Tracey Dingus offered an amendment to correct the spelling of Rena Berlin's name from "Rita" to "Rena" as noted on page 6 of the March 15, 2010, minutes of the Advisory Board meeting.

**Dawn Rees-Blakeman made a motion to approve the March 15, 2010, Advisory Board meeting minutes as amended. Angela Turley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **PRESENTATION**

- **Report on Bluefield College's Professional Education Program**

Dr. Donna H. Watson, director of teacher education, Bluefield College, made a presentation on their professional education program. The teacher education programs have been aligned with the *Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL)* and have been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Board of Education. Bluefield College's teacher education program, which is designed to prepare competent, caring, and qualified teachers who are reflective practitioners, was granted "Accreditation" by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) in December 2009.

Bluefield College offers programs leading to initial teacher licensure through Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in the following endorsement areas:

Career and Technical Education: Business Information Technology  
Elementary Education preK-6  
English  
Health and Physical Education preK-12  
History and Social Sciences  
Journalism (Add-on)  
Mathematics  
Mathematics - Algebra I (Add-on)  
Music Education - Instrumental preK-12  
Music Education - Vocal/Choral preK-12  
Science - Biology  
Science - Chemistry  
Speech Communication (Add-on)  
Visual Arts preK-12

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure Recommendations to the Board of Education (March 18, 2010)**

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts reported on items referred by ABTEL to the Board of Education at the March 18, 2010, meeting. The Board of Education:

- accepted ABTEL's recommendation to grant the professional education program at Virginia Wesleyan College "Accreditation with Stipulations" through the Board of Education approval process.
- accepted ABTEL's recommendation to approve an Option to Meet the Praxis I Reading and Writing Test for Entry into an Approved Preparation Program.

Mrs. Pitts reported that Superintendent's Memo #084-10, *Board of Education Approval of an Option to Meet the Praxis I Reading and Writing Tests for Entry into an Approved Preparation Program*, was posted on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Web site on April 16, 2010. The memorandum has been sent to school division human resources personnel and will be sent electronically to institutions of higher education with approved education programs in Virginia.

During discussion of this item, Dr. Susan Magliaro requested that the Advisory Board review the possibility of allowing Praxis I as an option for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) for licensure. Mrs. Pitts responded that the ABTEL Executive Committee would discuss the request.

Mrs. Pitts also reported that Superintendent's Memo #085-10, *Funding for National Board Certification*, was posted on the Virginia Department of Education Web site on April 16, 2010. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) received a grant from the United States Department of Education to provide partial financial support through the Candidate Subsidy Program for individuals interested in seeking National Board Certification. Virginia teachers who are interested in applying for a \$1,250 subsidy grant for National Board Certification are invited to submit a 2010 Subsidy Grant Application to the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but must be received no later than Monday, August 30, 2010.

- **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Partnership Agreement**

Mrs. Patty Pitts reported that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) State Partnership Board notified the Virginia Department of Education in March 2010 of their recommendation that NCATE renew the partnership agreement to conduct state approval and NCATE accreditation reviews in Virginia. The renewal agreement became effective January 2010.

- **Critical Shortage Teaching Areas**

Mrs. Patty Pitts reported that the top ten 2010-2011 Commonwealth of Virginia Critical Teaching Shortage Areas have been approved by the U.S. Department of Education and will be forwarded to the Virginia Retirement System, to representatives of the Virginia General Assembly, and to the Virginia Automated Legislative Services System for posting on the General Assembly Web site.

- **Criminal History Record Checks**

At the request of an Advisory Board member, Mrs. Patty Pitts provided an overview of the requirements for fingerprinting as provided in the *Code of Virginia, §22.1-296.2. Fingerprinting required; reciprocity permitted...* school employees. College and university representatives on the Advisory Board inquired about criminal history record checks for student teachers. A suggestion was that the Virginia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education may want to address this issue.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees met from 10:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

**FULL BOARD RECONVENES (11:15 a.m.)**

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Teacher Education Committee**

Dr. Carole C. Grove presented the report of the Teacher Education Committee.

**Agenda Item 1:** Review the Response from Virginia Wesleyan College to the Board of Education’s Decision to “Accredit with Stipulations” the Professional Education Program through a Process Approved by the Board of Education

**The Teacher Education Committee made a motion that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend that the Virginia Board of Education approve the a recommendation to accept the on-site accreditation review team that the professional education program at Virginia Wesleyan College be “accredited,” indicating that the program has met the standards as set forth in 8VAC-20-542-60 of the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*.**

The Teacher Education Committee’s recommendation was approved unanimously.

**Teacher Licensure Committee**

Jeffrey Arco presented the report of the Teacher Licensure Committee.

**Agenda Item 1:** Review of a Recommendation from the Committee on Braille

**The Teacher Licensure Committee made a motion that the Advisory Board for Teacher Education and Licensure recommend that the Virginia Board of Education approve the Braille Assessment Committee recommendation to accept the Braille Proficiency Test administered by the Educational Testing Service as the required assessment for teachers seeking the Special Education-Visual Impairment endorsement in Virginia. The Braille Assessment Committee’s rationale included the following: (1) the Braille Proficiency Test developed by the Educational Testing Service is a reliable, valid, and legally defensible assessment; (2) the test appears to cover the appropriate knowledge and skills for Braille; (3) the test would be available after a state-specific standard setting study; and (4) the test is accessible across the state.**

The Licensure Committee’s recommendation was approved unanimously.

### **Special Presentations**

Tracey Dingus, ABTEL chair, congratulated Susan Bridges, member of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure and principal of A.G. Richardson Elementary School in Culpeper County, who was named one of seven Transformational Leaders Across America by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). The Transformational Leadership Across America initiative recognizes principals who have distinguished themselves in shaping long-term school improvement. Sue will receive a scholarship and was honored at NAESP's 2010 Annual Convention and Exposition, which was held in Houston April 8-11.

Dr. Ella P. Ward, Board of Education liaison to ABTEL, and Tracey Dingus presented certificates for distinguished service to the following ABTEL members whose terms will expire June 30, 2010:

Valeria Porter, vice chair and secondary classroom teacher and special educator;  
Dr. Phillip Worrell, superintendent; and  
Dr. Carole C. Grove, higher education private institution representative.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)**

Julia Tucker-Lloyd presented the following report for the Virginia Community College System on behalf of Bill Hightower:

1. There has been a significant increase in individuals who have expressed interest in the VCCS Career Switcher Alternative Route to Licensure Program.
2. Currently, there are 86 candidates enrolled in the VCCS program.
3. The VCCS Career Switcher Program will soon introduce a writing sample to be included as part of the application process.

#### **State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)**

Dr. Gary Krapf reported the following information on behalf of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia:

1. The Gear-Up Program, supported, in part by a State Farm Grant, will host a two-day leadership summit April 29-30, 2010, in the counties of Hopewell and Chesterfield, Virginia.
2. There will be a six to seven percent increase in tuition for most public colleges and universities for the 2010-2011 academic year.
3. The following were among the bills passed during the 2010 Virginia General Assembly Session:

- ***House Bill 7: An Act to amend and reenact § [23-9.6:1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to duties of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.***

Develop a uniform, comprehensive data information system designed to gather all information necessary to the performance of the Council's duties. The system shall include information on admissions, enrollments, self-identified students with documented disabilities, personnel, programs, financing, space inventory, facilities and such other areas as the Council deems appropriate. *When consistent with the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act, the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act, and applicable federal law, the Council, acting solely or in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education or the Virginia Employment Commission, may contract with private entities to create de-identified student records for the purpose of assessing the performance of institutions and specific programs relative to the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. For the purposes of this section, "de-identified student records" means records in which all personally identifiable information has been removed.*

- ***House Bill 1066: An Act to amend and reenact § [23-9.6:1](#) of the Code of Virginia, relating to the establishment of a community college certificate of general studies program.***

*20. Develop a uniform certificate of general studies program, in consultation with the Virginia Community College System and Virginia public institutions of higher education, to be offered at each community college in Virginia. Such program shall ensure that a community college student who completes the one-year certificate program shall be able to transfer all credits to a four-year public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth upon acceptance to the institution.*

- ***House Bill 1389, Senate Bill 736: An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 23 a chapter numbered 26, consisting of sections numbered [23-299](#) through [23-299.10](#), relating to college partnership laboratory schools.***

The bills allow for the establishment of college partnership laboratory schools by any public institution of higher education that operates an approved teacher education program. Such schools shall be public schools established by a contract between the governing board of the school and the Board of Education.

- ***Senate Bill 209: An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [23-9.2:3.8](#), relating to course credit for International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses.***

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered [23-9.2:3.8](#) as follows:

§ 23-9.2:3.8. Course credit; International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses.

- A. *The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall implement policies to grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have successfully completed one or more International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement courses. The policies shall:*
1. *Outline the conditions necessary for the institution to grant course credit, including the minimum required scores on examinations for courses in the International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement programs; and*
  2. *Identify the specific course credit or other academic requirements of the institution that the student satisfies by successfully completing the diploma program.*
- B. *Each public institution of higher education's policies for course credit for standard and higher level International Baccalaureate courses shall be comparable to its policies for granting course credit for Advanced Placement courses.*
- C. *The governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia the policies adopted and implemented pursuant to this section, and shall make the policies available to the public on the institution's website.*

Virginia Department of Education

1. Mrs. Patty Pitts reported that a data collection work group consisting of representatives from approved teacher education programs has been established. The group will meet on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at the VDOE to review, discuss, and make recommendations regarding biennial reporting as required by the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*.
2. Mrs. Pitts thanked Valeria Porter, Dr. Carole C. Grove, and Dr. Phillip Worrell for their contributions to the Advisory Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned after a working lunch.