

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted**  
**Chesapeake Bay Governor's School**  
**March 5, 2004**

Chair C. Cottrell called the meeting to order at 9:10am. VACEG Board members present included: VACEG Chair C. Cottrell, Past VACEG Chair G. Hubbard, C. Baker, E. Brown, C. Chilton, E. Daniels, D. Elder, C. Estes, J. Green, E. Mebane, E. Snyder, Dr. R. Turner, B. McGonagill, and J. Marler.

Chair Cottrell called on Chesapeake Bay Governor's School director P. Griffin to share information about the school and to welcome VACEG Board members to the campus. Director Griffin spoke about several aspects of the school and its students, making special note of their cooperative efforts at Belle Isle State Park and its wetlands. Students from the school proposed, planned, and performed activities which made the wetlands area accessible to many people. Students applied for and received grant money to carry out their plans to build a wetlands boardwalk they had designed. Students built the boardwalk, but it was destroyed when Hurricane Isabel hit Virginia. Now, students are applying for new grant money to rebuild a boardwalk to make the area accessible to students and the public.

Chair Cottrell thanked Director Griffin for sharing the information about Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and for opening the school to VACEG for the board meeting. Chair Cottrell called for brief introductions from each VACEG Board representative present. Afterward, E. Snyder moved that the agenda be accepted, with added changes. C. Chilton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dr. R. Turner made a comment from personal experience in gifted education for more than a generation: "We must remember that gifted education is the most important aspect of all education. It has the greatest potential for changing the future of mankind."

Chair Cottrell noted that 22 US states have no specific funding for gifted education, and five states have gifted funding of \$250,000 or less for their gifted programs and services in their entire state.

Chair Cottrell reminded the VACEG Board about the flow chart of the work and progress VACEG has made during the past few years, with projections for future work. Chair Cottrell directed the board to move to subcommittee work. Past Chair G. Hubbard, J. Green, and Dr. R. Turner served on the Nominating Subcommittee. The Curriculum Subcommittee consisted of E. Brown, C. Baker, C. Chilton, E. Daniels, D. Elder, and J. Marler. The Delivery of Services Subcommittee consisted of C. Cottrell, C. Estes, E. Mebane, and E. Snyder. The subcommittees studied gifted plans from several other states (AR, AZ, CA, OK, MN, MT, and TX) to help clarify certain aspects of curriculum and delivery of services. At the end of the subcommittee study sessions, Chair Cottrell called for lunch.

(2)

After lunch, Chair Cottrell called for preliminary reports from the subcommittee work, after the subcommittees had worked through the documents from the various states including AR, AZ, CA, OK, MN, MT, and TX.

#### Curriculum Subcommittee

E. Brown reported items which could be helpful for gifted curriculum.

Content, process, product, and learning environment

Sequence of gifted curriculum

Vertical alignment of curriculum

Local, state, and national initiatives for gifted education

Applications of learning

Community validation of curriculum

Evaluation of gifted programs

Examining differences gifted programs can make

Continuity within a school district for gifted programs

#### Delivery of Services Subcommittee

G. Hubbard reported items which could be helpful for delivery of gifted services.

Continue to grapple with the process of delivery of services

Gifted students developing opportunities to work with one another, with other students, and to work independently

Review the checklist for options and review how the options function

Review age-peer services, academic services, and the whole array of services

Incorporate program design from three levels including K-12 gifted programs, groups, and individuals

Chair Cottrell thanked the VACEG subcommittees for their work. B. McGonagill gave the report from the Virginia Department of Education.

K. Tsengas' position at VDOE has been filled by J. Paige who works as administrative assistant for the foreign language academy and for Virginia's Governor's Schools.

Annual report submissions: school divisions submit their annual reports by March 31. VDOE then draws data from the reports. This plan should reduce redundancy in collecting and reporting data. By 2005, annual reports should be done online.

Gifted education in Virginia received adequate funding for the next biennium.

The Appomattox Governor's School has been evaluated, and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School was evaluated in February, 2004. Three academic Governor's Schools will be evaluated, this fall. This summer, two Summer Residential Governor's Schools will be evaluated, and three Summer Regional Governor's Schools will be evaluated.

(3)

Applications for Virginia's Governor's Schools continue to grow. This could be the last year for participation in NASA VIMS due to the per pupil expense. Other options are available for Virginia's students.

Possibly by 2006, all areas of Virginia will have access to a Governor's School. Surveys are already out to gather information from parents, teachers, and communities.

The peer review process is changing. Peer reviewers will now be nominated and selected for the peer review teams. The teams will consist of two experienced gifted coordinators and one new gifted coordinator. A timeline indicates the progress for the plan:

March, 2004- Superintendent's memo for local plan documents and peer nominations

May, 2004- Superintendent's memo for nomination of peer reviewers

December, 2004- Notification of peer review nominees

June, 2005- Local plans due with local superintendent's signature

July, 2005- Peer review conducted

September, 2005- Feedback returned to local school divisions

December, 2005- Submit (resubmit) local board-approved plan to VDOE

This initiative is intended to assist local divisions with their local plans, while maintaining quality, aligning with regulations, complying with guidelines, reaching goals, and even improving gifted education.

E Snyder questioned how the budget for gifted education was allocated, especially over time, including information about the funding formula for gifted education.

Dr. R. Turner asked that the VACEG Board draft a letter to Virginia's Department of Education concerning the funding for gifted education. The motion reads:

*"VACEG shall draft and present a letter to Virginia's Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Jo Lynne De Mary requesting expenditure of funds budgeted for gifted education in Virginia."*

Dr. Turner made the motion, and E. Brown seconded it. In relation to the motion, B. McGonagill will investigate information about expenditures in other areas of education and whether or not such expenses are reported as a matter of course or on request only. After more discussion, G. Hubbard moved that Dr. Turner's motion be tabled until the information could be gathered. E. Brown seconded the motion to table.

Dr. R. Turner urged members of the VACEG Board to contact their legislators about funding for gifted education and to ask other education professionals to contact legislators as well. Chair Cottrell thanked the VACEG Board for their contributions to the discussion and called for constituent group reports.

Virginia Association for the Gifted: E. Brown, VAG President, reported that VAG had had productive sessions related to lobbying legislators and that VEA Government Relations Director Rob Jones had offered much helpful information.

(4)

Virginia Education Association: C. Chilton, VEA Representative reported that the newly formed Foundation for Virginia is composed of more than sixty different organizations from across Virginia. Constituent groups within The Foundation for Virginia work together to stand up for Virginia's students and for public education.

Virginia Business and Industry: E. Snyder reported a certain "tool" is taking Virginia business and industry by storm. The tool is known as "lean manufacturing", and it has been endorsed by the Virginia Manufacturers Association. "Lean enterprise" is being taught at Old Dominion University and at other universities. Participants may earn "lean certification" through course completion.

Academic Year Governor's Schools: C. Cottrell reported that the Friends of the Academic year Governor's Schools had met at the state Capitol with Lt. Governor Kaine. The Academic Year Governor's Schools will conduct a mini-conference at Sweet Briar College march 22-24, 2004. This is to be the first effort for such a mini-conference.

Chair Cottrell thanked constituent groups for their reports to VACEG and noted a set of problems relating to the scheduled date for the final VACEG Board meeting for the 2003-2004 school year. The final meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2004. Chair Cottrell and B. McGonagill asked that the VACEG Board change the meeting date to May 14, 2004. The VACEG Board agreed to change the meeting date to May 14, 2004. The report of the VACEG Nominating Committee will be given at the May 14, 2004 meeting.

No public comment was made.

Chair Cottrell thanked VACEG Board members for their work and adjourned the VACEG Board meeting at 1:40pm.