

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted
Central Virginia Governor's School
Lynchburg, Virginia
March 4, 2005**

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG) met at the Central Virginia Governor's School. VACEG Board members in attendance for the meeting included Chair C. Cottrell, Vice-Chair J. Green-Flint, Past Chair G. Hubbard, K. Bremner, C. Brighton, V. Carey, C. Chilton, C. Dillon, C. Estes, L. Frye, M. Hall-Haley, E. Mebane, M. Roark, A. Wyatt, and J. Marler.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Chair Cottrell introduced Central Virginia Governor's School Director, Dr. T. Morgan, who invited the VACEG Board to tour the school. Dr. Morgan shared information about the structure of the school, the make-up of the faculty and the variety of the students.

Chair Cottrell called the VACEG Board back to order at 9:55am, noting that the Central Virginia Governor's School was one of the first four Governor's Schools with dedicated space for gifted education. Chair Cottrell stated that Virginia Department of Education liaison, B. McGonagill, was too ill to attend the VACEG Board meeting, so no report would be given from the Virginia Department of Education. Chair Cottrell did, however, share information about VDOE's online application for Summer Residential Governor's Schools returning to a hard copy application for summer 2005.

Chair Cottrell shared some information related to Virginia's Board of Education. Virginia's Board of Education has suggested several changes regarding VACEG Board members' service on the VACEG Board. Changes have been suggested in length of term of service, VACEG Board nomination, recommendation of VACEG members to the VACEG Board and more. Drafting a letter to VBOE President T. Jackson to explain both VACEG's confusion about the new rules and term limits was suggested.

Past Chair G. Hubbard added some information about a particular Javits Grant program known as Project PROMISE. VDOE will hire a program coordinator to assist in the administration of the three-year grant program. A major focus for the program is instructional and curriculum modifications in general education, grades K-3 classroom centered on problem-based learning. Sixteen teachers from Greensville and Martinsville Public Schools participated eagerly in the January 27-28, 2005 training at Buggs Island and will implement the first units by the middle of May.

Chair Cottrell called for VACEG subcommittees to work with their particular charges. Subcommittees worked until time for lunch. The VACEG Board continued to work through lunch, discussing possibilities for gifted education in Virginia.

After lunch, Chair Cottrell called for subcommittees to report. J. Green-Flint addressed VACEG By-Laws changes. The subcommittee decided that a letter expressing VACEG

concerns and questions related to changes in VACEG term of service and nomination procedures should be composed and sent to VBOE President T. Jackson.

C. Brighton addressed issues from the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee. Subcommittee members worked to merge changes and align strands of the concepts related to curriculum and instruction. Plans to compile a glossary of terms for curriculum and instruction were discussed. Adding a glossary could provide clarity and focus for all who use the subcommittee's report and recommendations.

G. Hubbard spoke about issues related to the Delivery of Services Subcommittee. A flow chart developed by this subcommittee could exhibit several strands of the delivery of services in one visual document. Such a chart could include program changes, accommodations for gifted students' needs, schedules and schedule changes, modes of delivery of services for gifted and more. Such a document would be used as a facilitative resource for coordinators of gifted education and others who may need aid in understanding the delivery of services to gifted students in Virginia. A parent and community involvement strand may be added to this document.

Chair Cottrell called for reports from VACEG constituent groups.

Past VACEG Chair G. Hubbard spoke for the Consortium of Coordinators of Gifted Education. Consortium comments about the delivery of services model were reported. The consortium plans to meet in October 2005, with a possible informal strand to share information as to what a coordinator of gifted education should do and should be able to do.

A. Wyatt spoke for the Summer Regional Governor's Schools. Funding has been appropriated for evaluating Governor's Schools, and evaluation will start in the summer of 2005. VDOE has hired two program evaluators, J. Bunting and A. Smith, to look at programs for gifted students with a particular focus on improving the programs.

C. Brighton spoke on behalf of Virginia Association for the Gifted. J. Freeman met with C. Brighton to discuss ideas for parent involvement and professional representatives in VAG. VAG serves as an advocacy group for gifted education in Virginia, and VAG has developed a resource book of all VAG grant information.

M. Roark spoke for the Virginia School Boards Association. VSBA watches the Virginia General Assembly with care for legislation which could affect public schools. Budget information is particularly important to VSBA members. Roanoke County has begun a school within a school, at the high school level, to provide focused learning opportunities for students in five educational areas: 1. Visual Arts; 2. Performing Arts; 3. International Studies; 4. Marketing and; 5. Communication.

C. Dillon spoke for private colleges in Virginia, stating that there is no reason gifted students should not be able to afford to attend a private college. Private colleges offer

great opportunities for student growth, educational opportunities and honors programs at rates comparable to public colleges.

C. Chilton spoke for the Virginia Education Association, stating that the VEA Convention was set to be held in Roanoke on April 13-16, 2005.

K. Bremner spoke for the Virginia Middle Schools Association, stating that the VMSA Conference would be held in Norfolk in March 2005. Release time will be one important issue under discussion, along with meeting the needs of gifted students, social equity, and creating a network for promoting excellence in middle schools in Virginia. Also, the "Virginia Schools to Watch" program will be highlighted

J. Green-Flint spoke for fine arts professionals. "Coming Up Taller" is a program honoring excellence in after-school programs, such as ballet (after school) in public schools.

C. Cottrell spoke for the Academic-Year Governor's Schools. AYGS directors were invited to a reception on February 22, 2005, at Maggie L. Walker School, in Richmond, to share information. On April 13, 2005, Central Virginia Governor's School Director T. Morgan will organize a second conference of GT Coordinators at Sweet Briar College, which will center on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of gifted students.

The next VACEG Board meeting is scheduled for 13 May, 2005. No public comment was made. C. Dillon moved for adjournment. M. Hall-Haley seconded the motion. The VACEG Board was adjourned at 2:45pm.

No VACEG Executive Board meeting was conducted.