

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted
Richmond Center for Math & Science
September 24, 2004
Richmond, Virginia

New member orientation was held for new VACEG members from 8:30-10:00am.

Chair C. Cottrell called the meeting of the VACEG Board to order at 10:05am.

VAECG Board members present included Chair C. Cottrell, Past Chair G. Hubbard, J. Green, M. Roark, C. Brighton, E. Brown, K. Bremner, M. Hall-Haley, E. Snyder, C. Estes, M. Hardt, A. Wyatt, C. Dillon, E. Mebane, L. Frye, T. Shortt, V. Carey, B. McGonagill, and J. Marler.

Chair Cottrell called for approval of the VACEG agenda for the meeting.

J. Green moved acceptance of the VACEG agenda, and C. Dillon seconded. The VACEG agenda for the meeting was approved.

Chair Cottrell called for approval of the minutes from the May 2004, VACEG meeting. E. Snyder moved approval of the minutes, and M. Hall-Haley seconded. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Chair Cottrell emphasized the charge of the VACEG Board for 2004-2005 in relation to its study of Delivery of Services and Curriculum for gifted students.

Chair Cottrell called for the report from the Virginia Department of Education.

B. McGonagill reported for the Virginia Department of Education.

- Twenty Summer Regional Governor's School directors and seven Summer Residential Governor's School reported good results from their summer programs
- The VACEG twenty-second Report was forwarded to the Virginia Board of Education by Chair C. Cottrell and Vice Chair J. Leslie
- Project Promise has been funded by a Javits Grant
- Project Promise has documented successes in Prince William County and in Norfolk
- Project Promise training teams will begin working in Greeneville County and Martinsville to train selected teachers in kindergarten through grade 2 over the next three years
- Places flooded in the Richmond area by hurricanes were away from the Department of Education where no appreciable damage occurred
- Training for new Coordinators of Gifted Education will be held in October
- A substantial number of the school division Coordinators of Gifted Education in Virginia are new to their position of new to gifted education
- The Peer Review teams has been altered to include new Coordinators of Gifted Education along with experienced coordinators for continuity
- The Annual Report, including the mechanisms which support it with collection of data and evidence, is under active development

- Virginia's Department of Education is undergoing reorganization
- Virginia's Board of Education has amended the bylaws which govern Virginia's advisory committees
- VACEG must reexamine its bylaws to bring them into compliance with the Board of Education's bylaws (Chair Cottrell will form a bylaws committee)

Chair Cottrell thanked B. McGonagill for the Department of Education report. VACEG members volunteering to serve on the Bylaws Committee included E. Snyder, J. Green, L. Frye, and T. Shortt, with Chair Cottrell and B. McGonagill participating.

G. Hubbard reported for the Delivery of Services subcommittee. VACEG spent much time working on staff development and student identification components as they relate to gifted education in Virginia. Coordinators of Gifted Education are called upon to perform many different tasks, within their respective school divisions, and they do not have time to investigate the latest research and documents for best practices in gifted education. The VACEG field guide could facilitate the work of Coordinators of Gifted Education by providing them a framework for gifted staff development, gifted student identification, delivery of services and curriculum. The VACEG field guide could indicate a framework from a level that is acceptable through a level that excels, in a clear, easy-to-follow document.

E. Brown reported for the Curriculum subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee spent much time comparing documents from other states as they related to gifted curriculum. Virginia education is governed by the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). The research base, best practices, and the Virginia regulations, affect curriculum. NAGC program standards and student-teacher ratio also affect curriculum development and delivery. The subcommittee considered these factors as members worked to synthesize ideas for workable curriculum guidelines.

Members of the VACEG Board shared many ideas during their discussion of the Curriculum and Delivery of Services components. Ideas included curriculum content, delivery of instruction, program model, curriculum compacting, Consortium of Coordinators of Gifted Education, disparity of resources among school divisions, special education, ESOL, effect of the passage of time, system for delivery of completed guide document, Virginia Standards of Quality revisions, Virginia Standards of Learning, the Virginia Coalition for Education, the impact of new coordinators of gifted education, the existing framework, and other ideas.

VACEG Board members serving on the Curriculum Subcommittee include E. Brown (chair), L. Frye, K. Bremner, V/ Carey, M. Hardt, C. Brighton, and J. Marler.

VACEG Board members serving on the Delivery of Services Subcommittee include G. Hubbard (chair), E. Mebane, M. Hall-Haley, C. Dillon, A. Wyatt, M. Roark, C. Estes, and E. Snyder.

Chair Cottrell charged the subcommittees to keep six big ideas in mind as they worked on their portion of the guide for gifted education.

1. Align curriculum across the scale.
2. Make the guide workable.
3. Base recommendations on research/best practices.
4. Create curriculum which addresses affective/cognitive student needs.
5. Should curriculum be augmented?
6. Ground ideas in reality for workable vision.

Chair Cottrell called for subcommittees to work on their respective topics.

During lunch, subcommittees continued to work on their topics. After an extended work session, Chair Cottrell called for the subcommittee reports.

The VACEG Curriculum Subcommittee reported five essential elements.

1. Curriculum differentiated appropriately for local philosophy, definition, and services offered
2. Scope and sequence for the gifted program included
3. Instructional pace is flexible to meet gifted learners' diverse needs
4. Regular curriculum extended, replaced, and/or augmented
5. Curriculum designed for students' cognitive and affective needs

The VACEG Delivery of Services Subcommittee reported seven elements.

1. What program support is required for the service model?
2. What does curriculum look like to support the model?
3. What might students produce in ideas, solutions, and/or products?
4. How could student ideas, solutions, and/or products be evaluated?
5. After collection of model usage data, decide which things in the model work in a particular setting
6. Craft longitudinal studies for the impact of the model
7. Show what students do, based upon data collected

Chair Cottrell thanked the subcommittees for their focused, energetic work. Reports from representative groups followed.

C. Brighton (VAG) reported that the VAG 2004 Seminar would be held in Roanoke on October 3-4, 2004, at Hotel Roanoke.

C. Dillon reported that teachers need training to deal with gifted students.

L. Frye reported that the local parent advisory committee had not met yet, and that the school system had a new coordinator of gifted education.

V. Carey reported that the Virginia Counselors would meet in Roanoke the first week in November 2004.

A. Wyatt reported that the Gifted Consortium will meet in October and there will be many things for new gifted coordinators.

E. Mebane reported that the local advisory committee will meet soon.

M. Hall-Haley reported that George Mason University offers a certificate in gifted education.

J. Marler reported that VEA hosted more than 300 House Parties for education, the Teacher Tax Relief Act has expired (VEA is working to renew it for educators), and VEA is a working partner with Jamestown 2007.

E. Snyder reported that the VACEG Bylaws Subcommittee would email their findings to VACEG members.

B. McGonagill reported that the VACEG Board has been invited to meet at Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax, Virginia, for the November meeting. Chair Cottrell thanked the committee members for their work. M. Hall-Haley moved adjournment, and E. Mebane seconded. The VACEG Board meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.