

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted  
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology  
November 12, 2004  
Fairfax, Virginia**

Members of the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG) met at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. School Principal E. Lodal invited VACEG Board members to tour the school, after discussing several of the current programs in which students are involved, including the Thomas Jefferson Learning Community, which is new this year. VACEG Board members were invited to tour the optics lab, the chemistry lab, the biotech lab, the computer systems lab, the computer assist design lab, the prototyping of engineering design lab, the micro-electronics lab, the automation robotics lab, and the oceanographic/geographic systems lab.

Call to Order

After touring the school, VACEG Board members were called to order by VACEG Vice-Chair J. Green-Flint. A motion that the agenda be adopted was made by M. Hall-Haley and seconded C. Chilton; the motion carried on a voice vote. A motion was made by M. Hall-Haley and seconded by C. Chilton to adopt the minutes of the September 24, 2004; the motion carried on a voice vote.

VACEG Attendance on November 12, 2004

Vice-Chair J. Green-Flint, Past Chair G. Hubbard, K. Bremner, C. Chilton, C. Dillon, C. Estes, M. Hall-Haley, M. Hardt, E. Mebane, E. Snyder, A. Wyatt, B. McGonagill and J. Marler.

Summary of Activities for the Bylaws Committee

Based on the recent final adoptions of changes in the Virginia Board of Education Bylaws for the appointment of advisory committee members, Vice-Chair Green-Flint stated that a VACEG subcommittee should look at the VACEG bylaws, especially in two areas:

1. Look at nominating process and term length for VACEG Board members, including service time for long-term memory and committee continuity (2 three-year terms) and
2. Look at standing rules so that VACEG Board member nominations and service time follow the requirements and align with the VBOE Charter

VACEG believes that three-year terms, as approved by the VBOE in September 2004, serve the committee and the Commonwealth better

Names of all VACEG nominees will be sent to the Virginia Department of Education for approval. VACEG will follow the process set down by VBOE.

Department of Education Report

B. McGonagill reported several items of interest to VACEG:

- Southwest Virginia awareness session for Summer Residential Governor's Schools will be held 14 January, at Emory and Henry College
- The Academic Year Governor's Schools' Consortium has a new director, E. Glazer
- Academic-Year Governor's Schools will release a new copy of the magazine that offers articles from each school
- Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools, an advocacy group, is set to lobby for gifted education during the 2005 Virginia General Assembly
- Massanutten Governor's School has expressed interest in opening, but it is likely that it will not open before the fall of 2006
- Summer Residential and Regional Directors will meet February 24-25, 2005, in Charlottesville
- Blue Ridge Governor's School and New Horizons Governor's School will be evaluated this school year (BRGS, Dec., 2004 and NHGS, May, 2005)
- Two evaluation coordinators have been hired by VDOE
- Virginia has about 45 new coordinators of gifted education, and 30 of those gifted coordinators met in Charlottesville for training in the fall
- NAGC held its conference in Salt Lake City
- As president of NAGC, J. VanTassel-Baska will focus on state policies as they relate to gifted education. Approximately 23 state representatives joined J. VanTassel-Baska in an effort to support gifted education at NAGC
- B. McGonagill will begin visiting regions in Virginia to discuss local plans for gifted education (Region I in Dec, Region VII in Feb., Region IX in March)
- The Jacob Javits Grant program Project PROMISE planning is underway and an administrator/coordinator search is being conducted
- B. McGonagill has redesigned the application form for Governor's Schools so that all needed information is on one page, along with documents for teachers who give referrals and guidance counselors
- The next scheduled VACEG Board meeting is planned for the Central Virginia Governor's School in Lynchburg (CVGS Director T. Morgan has invited VACEG to visit the CVGS site for the meeting)

Vice-Chair Green-Flint thanked B. McGonagill for the VDOE report and called for VACEG subcommittee action reports.

#### Review of Previous Actions by the Delivery of Services Subcommittee

Chair G. Hubbard reported the subcommittee brainstormed several options for gifted students. Gifted plans from several states were examined to discover what gifted programs look like across the nation. Quantifiable data are needed, and possible collection areas might center on the number of students who receive gifted services as well as the number of minutes of gifted services they receive in a set amount of time.

Delivery of Services Subcommittee included C. Dillon, C. Estes, M. Hall-Haley, G. Hubbard, E. Mebane and A. Wyatt

### Review of Previous Actions by the Curriculum Subcommittee

B. McGonagill shared a chart from the curriculum subcommittee which showed that curriculum and instruction work well within the format.

Curriculum Subcommittee included K. Bremner, C. Chilton, M. Hardt, B. McGonagill and J. Marler.

Vice-Chair Green-Flint thanked the subcommittees for their previous work and called for subcommittees to return to work with the addition of a VACEG Bylaws Subcommittee.

Bylaws Subcommittee included J. GreenFlint, E. Snyder and B. McGonagill.

### Lunch Discussions

During lunch, a student from Thomas Jefferson High School shared information about attending the school from a student's point of view. Guidance counselor N. Pitkin spoke about guidance opportunities and interventions on behalf of students. After lunch, Vice-Chair Green-Flint called for subcommittee summaries.

### Summaries of Today's Work from Subcommittees

Curriculum Subcommittee reported that the subcommittee recommends alignment of categories in this area with other document titles. Also collaborative planning time and community partnering should be added.

Delivery of Services Subcommittee reported that program options should be put in an excel document to facilitate calculations for gifted coordinators.

Bylaws Subcommittee reported that VACEG bylaws have extensive processes. VACEG should report to VDOE ways in which the VACEG Board can facilitate the nomination and selection of board members, with the final approval resting with VBOE.

### Future Directions that VACEG Might Take

E. Snyder, as the business and industry representative, reiterated that business/industry and education seem to have a disconnect as it relates to funding, facilities and support. Mr. Snyder remarked that corporations need significant lead time to plan and prepare. Education systems need help in writing understandable proposals for projects, and they should select companies with appropriate resources for their request. If some guidelines could be developed and shared with the educational community, business and industry could be very responsive to specific requests. Time, energy, money, effort, logistics, permission, location and more must be considered and budgeted ahead

of time for successful projects. A form for release time of educators and industry employees which is easy to complete and recognizable would be helpful in securing release time for projects.

E. Snyder also related that local parent advisory groups need a systematic plan for involving parents. Sharing ideas about how to ask for partnerships and deal with communication and public relations officers could create a model which would work well for business/industry and education for collaboration with parents/communities.

Should VACEG establish a longitudinal study?

Where are our gifted students going?

Were we able to open doors for them? What are the results?

Are there other ideas/issues important for VACEG to address?

Should VACEG conduct longitudinal studies of students to decide what

Needs were met and what needs were not met?

Would such a study help gifted coordinators in their work?

#### Reports from Constituent Organizations

K. Bremner reported that the Virginia Middle School Association will hold its meeting in Norfolk 10-12 March, 2005.

G. Hubbard reported that the Gifted Consortium held a conference in October. C. Brighton gave a fine presentation. C. Callahan and graduate students gave a presentation about AP and IB in schools. A. Wyatt commented that the gifted Coordinators' meeting was very good.

The 2004 NAGC Conference was held in Salt Lake City. The keynote address focused on "A Nation Deceived" and the Davidson's study and conclusions about the use of acceleration as a teaching method.

J. Marler spoke about the Virginia Education Association's agenda and the upcoming legislative session in Virginia.

No public comment was made.

Vice-Chair Green-Flint thanked all VACEG Board members for their work and for their commitment to gifted education in Virginia.

M. Hall-Haley moved for adjournment at 2:10pm. C. Chilton seconded. The motion to adjourn carried. The next VACEG Board meeting is scheduled to be held at Central Virginia Governor's School in Lynchburg, 4 March, 2005.