

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education for the Gifted
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond, Virginia
May 29, 2009
Minutes

Members present:

Rebecca Akers
Beverly Catlin
Elyse Devereux
Ellen Fithian
Judi Greathouse
Richard Layman
Mary Jane Mutispaugh
Diane Naff
Brian Pace
Sheila Roalf
Margaret Turley
Gerry Tylavsky
Phil Tharp

The meeting was called to order by Sheila Roalf at 10:06 a.m. and introductions were made.

Presentation of certificates were made to the following members whose term is complete this year and will not be returning to the committee in the 2009-2010 year:

Laura Hall
Downey Roberts-Gabay
Diane Sterbutzel
Margaret Turley
Pamela Ward

Member Melissa Larsen was removed from the Committee due to lack of communication and attendance over a two year period.

A brief discussion was held concerning the procedure for nominating committee. Names for upcoming officers will be submitted in accordance with the by-laws.

The agenda was approved unanimously. The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to reflect the proper spelling of Beverly Catlin's name. Once the change was made, the minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

Dr. Donna Poland, Specialist for Governor's School and Gifted Education, gave the Department of Education report. Dr. Poland emphasized that due to budget cuts, many changes may exist at the Gifted Coordinator positions throughout the state. The changes range from positions being eliminated to the position being given to individuals who already have a full agenda. Dr. Poland pointed out that the committee needs to remain aware of the changes when revising the *Virginia Plan for the Gifted* and the Reference Guide as individuals with little or no experience in gifted education may be assuming the role of coordinator. Richard Layman stated that the Governor's initiative to cut back on administrative positions could be responsible for the elimination of some of the Gifted Coordinator positions. Dr.

Poland informed the committee that the chairman of the Gifted Coordinators' Consortium will be addressing the Board of Education on June 24, 2009, concerning the requirement for staffing listed in the SOQ's.

Dr. Poland stated that all of the Academic Year Governor's Schools have managed through the budget cuts and will continue to operate for the 2009-2010 school year. The only division known to have withdrawn their participation in an AYGS is Clarke County. Concerning Summer Residential Governor's Schools, there will be 100 divisions participating this year, 1389 applications were received this year and over 1000 students were adjudicated. As a result, more students accepted the invitation to attend Summer Residential Governor's School than ever before.

Dr. Poland updated the committee on the status of the proposed revised *Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students*. The review of the regulations by the Dept. of Planning and Budget was completed on May 12, 2009 and sent to the Secretary of Education's office where they still remain. Once the regulations leave the Secretary of Education, they will go to the Governor's Office for review. There is no time limit once the regulations reach the Governor's office. Dr. Poland anticipated no opposition and hopes that the process will be complete by the end of summer.

Concerning the technical review proposed by the regulations, it is anticipated that the state will be divided into five areas. One of the five areas will be up for technical review each year. It is important to note that the approval of the local plan does not have to coincide in the same year with the approval of the gifted plan by the local school board. Dr. Poland feels that this may be helpful in incorporating recommendations from the technical review in the local plan, so it might be helpful if the technical review of the plan occurs in the in-between years. An approved plan by the local school board has to be presented to the DOE for technical review on a schedule determined by the DOE.

Members Reports

- Shelia Roalf-Prince George gifted survived most of the cuts. Did not get any additional positions. Superintendent retiring as of September 1. Current board is pro gifted.
- Beverly Catlin-Multiple hats piece as we have more jobs added to our job descriptions. Beverly shared a story concerning the Cogat being given to a 2nd grader, parent purchased the test off Amazon.com. There are other tests out there as well-Naglieri, OLSAT. Testing procedures may be compromised since these tests are available for purchase.
- Judi Greathouse-lost two teaching positions at the middle school level. Gifted no longer part of special services, now under Instruction in Frederick Co. Coordinators position is .5 and library specialist is .5.
- Brian Pace-Governors schools survived this year, but next year will be even more of a challenge. Teachers assigned to specific divisions in the afternoon, created an equity issue. Looking at doing some afternoon classes next year. Numbers in applications higher this year than they've ever been. School official had them on cutting block, but the board refused.
- Margaret Turley-Bedford County: Naglieri online (Pearson) in grades 3-12. Left K-2 with traditional paper pencil (OLSAT and Stanford 10), did training with webinar. Able to comply with 60 day directive. Margaret is retiring and the school system is not replacing her.
- Gerry Tylavsky-York County IB is adding an 8th period, adding a 7th grade class next year. Already has 6th grade in place.

- Elyse Devereux-Newport News gifted program is expanding. Adding an additional administrative position.
- Ellen Fithian-Competitive year for college admissions. Private schools have made it more competitive for children whose family incomes are up to \$180,000. Acceptance rate of in state students at state schools has declined – from about 35% to 26% -- due to the increase in student applications.
- Phil Tharp-Able to get a 5th social studies (any current electives) requirement for Maggie Walker Gov School. Concerned about Personal Finance and Economics (two semester courses) class and how that will be rolled in with current requirements. Looks like junior year fits MWGS best.
- Richard Layman-King and Queen - Participation in two Governor's Schools and students are being successful. Most board members support. Losing \$475,000 in total funding even with the stimulus funds.
- Mary Jane Mutispaugh- maintained resource teachers in a year when 4 teaching positions were cut; Governor's School program suffering from a lack of consistency (4 directors in 4 years). Enrollment down.
- Diane Naff-Montgomery Co. College Zone– Budget is still a big issue but summer enrichment is being offered. Governor's School was cut then restored. Annual report will be in August.
- Rebecca Akers-Brunswick Co difficult budget year.

Before members reported to their subcommittees, dates were set for the 2009-2010 meetings. The dates are as follows: October 16, 2009; December 4, 2009; February 5, 2010; April 30, 2010. All meetings will take place at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

Subcommittee Reports

The Virginia Plan Subcommittee members are: Beverly Catlin, Ellen Fithian, Elyse Devereux, Phil Tharp (chairperson), and Richard Layman. This subcommittee will meet on June 18, 2009 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The task of the committee on this day will be to complete a draft document.

The Reference Guide Subcommittee is divided in to three focus areas: Curriculum (Diane Naff, Mary Jane Mutispaugh); Parent Relationship and Teacher Development (Rebecca Akers, Gerry Tylavsky, Sheila Roalf); Identification and Delivery of Services (Judi Greathouse, Carol Horn). The focus areas will be prepared to present their particular areas on October 16, 2009.

Dr. Poland would like to review the work of the subcommittees prior to the October 16, 2009 meeting.

The following members are nominees for the 2009-2010 officers:

Chairman – Brian Pace

Vice Chairman – Beverly Catlin

Secretary – Mary Jane Mutispaugh

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.