

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted**  
Minutes for April 27, 2012

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on April 27, 2012 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Beverly Catlin, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Rebecca Akers, Beth Andersen, Betty Covington, Patti Davis, Ellen Fithian, JoAnne Funk, Judi Greathouse, Margee Greenfield, Reginald Johns, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Chiraag Khemlani, Veronica Kouassi, Amy Lamb, Diane Naff, and Dr. Donna Poland.

Members absent: Tomica Crosby, Carol V. Horn, Brian Pace

Beverly Catlin opened the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: Judi Greathouse moved approval of the agenda, Patti Davis seconded.

Approval of minutes: The minutes were approved with corrections via email.

Member Recognition: Several members are at the end of their terms and were recognized for their work on this committee. Bev gave each a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Education.

- Betty Covington
- Patti Davis
- Ellen Fithian
- Judi Greathouse
- Margee Greenfield
- Carol V. Horn
- Reginald Johns
- Veronica Kouassi
- Brian Pace

Nomination of Officers: The following slate of officers for 2012–2013 was put forth. Ellen Fithian moved approval of the nominations. Margee Greenfield seconded. All were in favor.

Chair: Beverly Catlin  
Vice-Chair: Rebecca Akers  
Secretary: Mary Jane Mutispaugh

Officers will be voted in at the September 21, 2012 meeting.

Department of Education report by Dr. Donna Poland

- The Virginia Department of Education is waiting until financing is complete before contracts for summer programs are issued, VACEG funds are allocated, etc.

- Superintendent’s Memo #102-12 April 19, 2012 Caboose Budget Amendments.  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents\\_memos/2012/102-12b.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2012/102-12b.pdf)
  - Amendment B, page 22 — The proposed budget includes \$100,000 in fiscal year 2013 for planning for or studying the feasibility of expanding Governor’s schools, or merging existing Governor’s schools, in order to provide full-day, grade 9 through 12 programs at these schools. It also provides \$100,000 in fiscal year 2014 as one-time start-up funding for such expansions of existing Governor’s schools. In addition, the Senate’s proposed budget provides \$100,000 in fiscal year 2013 for planning for a full-day regional science and technology Governor’s school, grades 9 through 12, in the greater Hampton Roads area. The Senate’s proposed budget also increases the funded enrollment cap on Governor’s schools by 50 students, from 1,650 students to 1,700 students in fiscal year 2014. The only Governor’s school affected by this action is the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which has a projected enrollment of 1,872 students for the 2011–2012 school year. This action increases the state share of the Governor’s school funding by \$73,402 in fiscal year 2014.
  - Amendment B, page 30 — The budget provides \$200,000 in fiscal year 2013 to fund a feasibility plan for establishing the Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, Applied Mathematics (STEAM) Academy. The Virginia STEAM Academy would be a residential facility designed to foster the educational development of high school students who are academically talented in the areas of science, technology, engineering and applied mathematics.

Committee members expressed concern about the fiscal impact of these amendments on current academic year Governor’s Schools. Members were in favor of the state moving forward with any opportunities that expand services to gifted students, but they do not want such opportunities to negatively impact current offerings. Patti Davis moved that a representative of VACEG speak to the Virginia Board of Education regarding the fiscal impact of the proposed STEAM Academy on academic year Governor’s Schools. Margee Greenfield seconded. All were in favor. Beverly Catlin will work with Dr. Poland to determine when to speak to the Board. It will probably be at their July or September meeting. Bev will email a draft of her statement to VACEG members so all can review and give feedback before the presentation.

- JLARC will be studying regional programs-special education, Governors Schools, career and technical programs, STEM initiatives. This study will examine the benefits and pitfalls of regionalism.
- Changes have been made in the Virginia Code relating to Gifted Regulations. First HB 1295 and SB 697 changed the wording in the code from shall appoint a local advisory committee (LAC) to may appoint a local advisory committee. The effect of this change is that localities are no longer required to have local advisory committees and also that committees no longer have to be appointed by the local school board. Concern was expressed that a LAC is the venue for local community input into a locality’s gifted

program. Gifted regulations now must be amended to reflect the change in the Code. It is expected this will be changed at the May meeting of the Virginia Board of Education.

- Data collection is moving forward for academic year Governor's Schools to tap into where students are going after graduation.  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics\\_reports/graduation\\_completion/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/graduation_completion/index.shtml)
- Letters for summer residential governor's schools have gone out and are due back May 3.

#### Responsibility from the Virginia Board of Education:

The Committee discussed and worked on the latest draft of their document, "Educational Opportunities for Gifted Students at the High School Level". This document addresses the following charges from the Virginia Board of Education:

- To identify various program models that meet the needs of gifted learners at the high school level and satisfy the requirements for best practices in the Regulations;
- To determine what programs, policies, or procedures are in place as support mechanisms for the high school program models;
- To determine the array of learner outcomes associated with each program model; and
- To determine the extent to which these models interact with VDOE initiatives, such as STEM education and career and college readiness.

After an initial discussion, members broke into their subgroups to continue work on their charge. Discussion of the working template ensued.

#### Subcommittee Reports:

1. Introduction: Minor changes were made to the Introduction. Bev and Donna are working on the table of contents and may change the order so that it is somewhat more logical.
2. Accelerated Content: Completed dual enrollment, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate. Still need to complete Early College and Cambridge sections.
3. Special Schools: Worked as a group to put each type in a separate section, aligning it with the remainder of the document. Judi will complete this section and email the finished revisions to Donna and Bev.
4. Beyond the Classroom: Put everything in chart form, eliminated NAGC standards, and worked on formatting.
5. Differentiated Opportunities: Converted charts and worked on formatting so that it aligns with the other section.

#### VACEG Meeting Dates for 2012-2013:

Joanne Funk moved approval of the following meeting dates for 2012–2013. Rebecca Akers seconded. All members were in favor.

September 21, 2012  
December 7, 2012  
February 8, 2013  
April 19, 2013

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick — School board has approved the local plan.

Bev Catlin, Charlottesville — Congratulated the group on its hard work in addressing the charge the committee received from the Board of Education. A huge amount was accomplished in a short amount of time.

Betty Covington, Prince William — Gail Hubbard will be retiring this year. Betty shared how much she has enjoyed serving on the committee this year.

Patti Davis, Hanover — Hanover County is currently involved in the Five Year Plan to establish new vision statements and action plans. Gifted education is a priority in this process. Patti thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on this committee.

Ellen Fithian, Region 2 — Ellen shared how much she has enjoyed serving on this committee.

JoAnne Funk, Norfolk — She expressed her concern about the impact of budget cuts on gifted education.

Judi Greathouse, Frederick County — Region IV just had their Educator and Parent Seminar. There was a student from each of the Governor's Schools on a panel. Carol Horn was the keynote speaker. Judi thanked everyone for the past six years as a member of this committee.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School — She is looking forward to the summer programs she will oversee.

Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Alleghany County — Region VI Gifted Coordinators sponsored a region wide inservice on Differentiated Instruction with Bruce Oliver. This has become an annual regional opportunity with different presenters each year.

Diane Naff, Montgomery County — She expressed her concern about budget cuts and the impact on gifted education.

There were no public comments.

Bev reminded members that the next meeting would be September 21, 2012. Once again she thanked those members of the board who will be leaving us.

On a motion by Judi, seconded by Ellen the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm