

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

October 7, 2011 minutes

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on October 7, 2011 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

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

Members absent: Beverly Catlin

Matthew Edinger has resigned from the committee as he has moved to London.

Brian Pace opened the meeting with introductions.

Approval of the Agenda: Judi Greathouse moved approval of the agenda, Rebecca Akers seconded.

Slate of officers: The following slate of officers was presented for consideration: President-Beverly Catlin, Vice President-Veronica Kouassi, and Secretary-Mary Jane Mutispaugh. The slate of officers was unanimously accepted.

Corrections were made to the member address list.

Veronica Kouassi chaired the meeting in the absence of Beverly Catlin.

Department of Education report-Dr. Donna Poland

- Documents
 - New Governor's School map (Patrick County withdrew from Piedmont GS, Caroline is participating in two governor's schools)
 - Schedule of academic governor's schools evaluations
 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 - Virtual Learning-state initiative approving multi-division online providers
 - Letter from the President of the Board of Education with the committee's charges for 2011-2012

- Several statewide meetings have been held recently or will be held this month.
 - The Consortium of Gifted Administrators met on September 21, 2011 in Charlottesville, VA.
 - Academic Year Governor's School (AYGS) Directors met on September 29, 2011.
 - The Virginia Association for the Gifted (VAG) will meet October 20-22, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. <http://www.vagifted.org>

- Academic Year Governor's Schools: only one new director, LeeAnn Whitesell at Shenandoah Valley Governor's School. Maggie Walker has an interim director, Don Skeen, and is currently conducting a search for a permanent director.
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools information was put online Monday. New foreign language specialist Lisa Harris from Norfolk.

Charge 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.

A discussion ensued regarding how to approach the charges from the state board. The committee must have a document ready before the final meeting to review so that it is ready to submit to the State Board of Education by the September 2012. Program areas:

- Accelerated Content-IB, AP, honors, dual enrollment, Cambridge, early college admission
 - Carol K. Dickens
 - Amy Lamb
 - Diane Naff
 - Ellen Fithian
 - Reginald Johns
- Special Schools-Academic Year Governor's Schools, Summer Residential/Regional Governor's Schools, Magnet
 - Veronica Kouassi
 - Brian Pace
 - Betty Covington
 - Judi Greathouse
 - Tomica Crosby
 - Mary Jane Mutispaugh
- Special Interest-study abroad, summer enrichment, mentor, intern, independent
 - Carol Horn
 - Beth Andersen
 - Rebecca Akers
 - Margee Greenfield
- Differentiated Instruction-online, virtual, classroom differentiation, cluster/self/group models, acceleration
 - Chiraag Khemlani
 - Patti Davis

- Joanne Funk
- Review and Introduction – Introduction to document and final review
 - Beverly Catlin

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Accelerated Content: Each member of the subcommittee will review one option of the areas. Diane-Early Admissions Programs; Ellen-Advanced Placement; Carol-International Baccalaureate; Amy-Dual Enrollment; Reggie-Cambridge.
2. Special Schools: The subcommittee subdivided into three groups. Veronica and Tomica will focus on Academic Year Governors Schools, Betty and Judi will focus on summer programs, and Mary Jane and Brian will focus on magnet and specialty schools. Research will be conducted on points 2, 3, and 4 of the BOE charge on the focus areas. The template will include a description of the model, options existing for the model, support mechanisms in place (policies, procedures, and regulations), interaction with DOE initiatives, and learner outcomes associated with the model. (see attached template) The following things will be considered across models: social/emotional needs, career/college counseling, assessing growth/progress, and 21st century skills.
3. Special Interest: Identified three steps: 1. Identify VDOE initiatives, look at NAGC standards that apply to this area, determine existence of 21st century document. 2. Committee members will look at state and national examples of the seven areas. 3. Integrate the board mandates relative to programs, policies, procedures, and student outcomes.
4. Differentiated Instruction: Chiraag will focus on online/virtual learning, Joanne will focus on classroom differentiation and acceleration, and Patti will focus on clusters and self grouping. Each member will address social/emotional issues, College/Career counseling, growth/progress, and 21st Century skills within each model. In addition they will examine supports and challenges in a problem-solving manner in order to enrich differentiated outcomes for students. The Differentiation Subcommittee will utilize cloud computing and virtual technology to collaborate and integrate this section.

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick County- Brunswick County is working on its gifted plan. Professional development was conducted for K-5 teachers.

Beth Andersen, Prince George-Prince George has just begun consulting with William and Mary to adjust practices for alignment with the new regulations.

Betty Covington, VSBA-Pass

Tomica Crosby, Suffolk-Pass

Patti Davis, Hanover-Pass

Ellen Fithian-Pass

Joanne Funk-Pass

Judi Greathouse, Frederick County-School board passed the local plan in June and wanted a six year plan so that it aligns with all other plans.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School-We need to get the word out to parents regarding summer residential governor's school programs and how their child goes about applying for the program.

Reggie Johns, Hampton-Pass

Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Suffolk-The gifted plan has been approved by the school board. Currently are implementing and tweaking the plan, using it as a working document.

Chiraag Khemlani, Alexandria- I am a product of gifted initiatives in Virginia public schools and represent industry on this committee.

Veronica Kouassi, Appomattox Regional Governor's School-Pass

Amy Lamb, Northumberland-Pass

Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Alleghany County-Alleghany County held an in-service for elementary teachers on Response to Intervention, differentiating instructional strategies. Secondary teachers had an in-service on Marzano instructional strategies and grading practices. The Jackson River Governor's School has once again doubled its enrollment.

Diane Naff, Montgomery County-The initiative for 2011-2012 is 100% Graduation 2012-2025. The gifted initiative is "graduate with a plan". The new plan and new regulations have provided an open door to discuss gifted education with all faculties, especially student growth requirements.

Brian Pace, -Students are sharing art work on the second, third, and fourth floors of the General Assembly building. Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools have the goal of restoring funding. Piedmont Governor's School is celebrating its tenth year in existence. They will be having alumni and graduates showcase "where they are now."

There were no public comments.

Veronica reminded members that the next meeting will be December 2, 2011 and subcommittees should have tasks completed for sharing with other subgroups at this time.

On a motion by Veronica, seconded by Ellen, the meeting was adjourned.