

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

Minutes

December 2, 2011

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on December 2, 2011 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

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

Members absent: Dr. JoAnne Funk and Tomica Crosby.

Beverly Catlin opened the meeting with introductions.

Approval of the Agenda: Margee Greenfield moved approval of the agenda, Judi Greathouse seconded.

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

Department of Education report-Dr. Donna Poland

- The Virginia Department of Education is currently anticipating the release of the Governor's Budget on December 19.
- VACEG's Charge from the Virginia Board of Education
 - Look at presenting the current VACEG charge document in September/October 2012 time frame to the Virginia Board of Education.
 - Hope to have things into a cohesive document in February.
- Dr. Poland has attended many general education meetings lately. For example-SCED Course Codes crosswalk, virtual school, and teacher performance linked to student growth and to teacher evaluation.
- There have been several calls to the Virginia DOE asking how to initiate an academic year governor's school.
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools deadline for adjudication was November 30.

Questions/Comments from members:

- Comment from member: Charlottesville is interested in creating a virtual high school.
- Comment from member: Various list serves are having discussion about gifted students graduating early from high school and moving on to college. The focus of these discussions has centered on how to get students to remain in high school so that they are more prepared for college life. This discussion is being initiated by higher education.

- Comment from member: There are folks creating the Economics and Personal Finance course as an online course. Comment from Donna: The VDOE is developing an online course that will be offered for localities' use through Virtual Virginia.
- Question from member: Are the guidelines for evaluating the local plan online? Not yet, but they should be available sometime around the first of the year.

VACEG 's Charge for 2011–2012 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.

Members broke into groups to continue work on the charge. The committee hopes to have a draft ready for review by its April 2012 meeting so the final document is ready to submit to the Virginia Board of Education by September 2012. Program areas:

- Introduction
 - Bev Catlin
 - Donna Poland
- 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
- Beyond the Classroom — study abroad, summer enrichment, mentor, intern, independent
 - Carol Horn
 - Beth Andersen
 - Rebecca Akers

- Margee Greenfield
- Differentiated Opportunities — online, virtual, classroom differentiation, cluster/self/group models, acceleration
 - Chiraag Khemlani
 - Patti Davis
 - Joanne Funk

Discussion of a working template ensued. After several drafts, a final version was accepted by the group. It includes the following components.

1. Educational Opportunity
2. Program/model and Description
3. How the program/model satisfies requirements for best practices in the Regulations
4. What support mechanisms are associated with the program/model
5. What learner outcomes are expected with the program/model
6. What DOE initiatives are associated with the program/model
7. Examples of where the program/model is being implemented in Virginia

Beverly will send out Template 3 to all members of the group.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Introduction: Bev and Donna are working on the wording for the introduction.
2. Accelerated Content: Each member has investigated their area and the group is still wrestling with how to answer number 3.
3. Special Schools: Worked as a group today, individuals will complete additional work and Mary Jane will put the pieces together. The group is looking at doing a chart for numbers 4 and 6.
4. Special Interest: Renamed group Beyond the Classroom. Margee-speakers, field trips, seminars, and college advising; Carol-Study Abroad; Beth-independent study, mentorships, and internships; Rebecca-Summer Enrichment. Mini drafts will be exchanged January 20.
5. Differentiated Opportunities: Focused task. Chiraag is looking at the different options for differentiation. JoAnne is working on differentiation in the classroom. Patti is working on grouping opportunities in the regular classroom-seminar, dedicated classroom and mixed ability classroom.

Bev proposes that the VACEG ask for an extension to complete the assigned task. We would need to request that we be granted an extension to complete the task. The group will assess the status of work at the February meeting.

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick—Continuing to do professional development about differentiation with gifted.

Bev Catlin, Charlottesville—Traveled to China for 9 days with the Chinese Bridge Delegation with the College Board during November. Purposes: promote Chinese language in the US, develop connections between Chinese schools and American schools, and promote China in the US.

Patti Davis, Hanover—Sent many resource teachers to the national conference. Secondary and primary resource teachers are working together to build a continuum of services. The spring parent forum will focus on how to help your child at home.

Judi Greathouse, Frederick County—Mountain Vista Governor's School is adding a biomedical strand to its course of study.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School—Summer Residential Governor's Schools calls from middle school parents about what is available for middle school students. Also more calls from private schools and home school parents.

Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Suffolk—Elementary and middle schools are working on cluster groupings in the regular classroom. Professional development held for regular classroom teachers. International Baccalaureate extended essays were presented last week.

Chiraag Khemlani, Alexandria—Open course ware where educators are pooling course offerings and course resources, 100% free. MIT's open course is a good example.

Amy Lamb, Northumberland—Governor's School was renovated and has new facilities.

Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Alleghany County—In the process of assembling summer residential governor's school applications. Region VI Gifted Coordinators meet on December 16th.

Diane Naff, Montgomery County—National Board candidacy for the division is now part of her job responsibilities.

Brian Pace, Piedmont Governor's School—Academic Year Governor's Schools have art exhibits at the General Assembly building. Capitol day will be sometime in February. Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools will bring students on Capitol Day to discuss their governor's school experiences.

There were no public comments.

Bev reminded members that the next meeting will be February 17, 2012 and subcommittees should have tasks completed for sharing with other subgroups at this time.

On a motion by Veronica, seconded by Carol the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm