

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted February 8, 2013

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on February 8, 2013 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Beverly Catlin, Rebecca Akers, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Beth Andersen, Sandra Cole, Margee Greenfield, Patricia Ann Griffin, Carol Horn, Catherine Ingrassia, Reginald Johns, Stephen Keith, Chiraag Khemlani, Diane Naff, Lori Vaught, and Dr. Donna Poland.

Members absent: Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Joanne Funk, Sarah Gross, Gena Keller, and Amy Lamb

Visitors: Dr. Michael Bolling, VDOE

Beverly Catlin opened the meeting at 10:05 am.

Approval of the Agenda: Margee Greenfield moved approval of the agenda, Catherine Ingrassia seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of minutes: Minutes were approved via email and are posted on the website.

Department of Education report-Dr. Donna Poland

- Teacher Direct website has information related to gifted education.
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/teacher_direct/index.shtml
- The deadline for VAG nominations for regional teacher awards is March 1.
- There is a proposal before the General Assembly for eight regional summer governor's school programs for middle school and entrepreneurship. Another proposal would increase funding to year-long academic governors' schools. Neither of these made it out of subcommittees so most likely they will not be funded next year.
- Money is being disbursed for Southwest Governor's School to investigate a move to a full day program for grades 9-12 and to Norfolk and Portsmouth to investigate a plan for a STEM Governor's School. Both of these are \$100,000 planning grants.
- Deadline for applications for summer governors' schools is February 26. At this time, only one division has submitted the hard copies of applications.
- This year there has been a revision of the rubric for the evaluation of academic year governors' schools to align with the revised NAGC standards. This rubric was implemented in the fall by the Piedmont GS. Minor wording changes have been made; the document will be used in the upcoming evaluation at Maggie Walker.
- New NAGC Professional Standards are in draft format. They should go out to NAGC members for public comment. It is anticipated they will be finalized by the fall. Virginia's standards that address programs for the gifted and endorsement in gifted education are due for revision. The goal is to link the Virginia standards with the national standards. Donna Poland will send out

something to coordinators to solicit input for content on the initial review. The process for the new requirements: The DOE will make initial changes, if necessary, to the competencies and licensure requirements – the BOE will solicit public comment – changes may be made based on public comment – and then the BOE will vote on the final revision – final approved revisions are sent to government/Governor for final signoff. Currently, the DOE is at the initial step of making changes.

- The RFP for the Summer Residential Governor’s School in Math, Science and Technology was released on Feb 1, 2013.

The committee discussed allowing representatives of the residential STEAM academy to make a presentation to the VACEG. The group decided to table a visit at this time.

Responsibility from the Virginia Board of Education: Each subcommittee and the committee at large considered a draft document “Educational Opportunities for Gifted Students at the High School Level”, which 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.

The committee discussed the timeline for finalizing the document. Then members broke into groups to continue work on the charge. Subcommittees considered the latest draft and made recommendations for the final document. Lori Vaught and Carol Horn will review the document for consistency and editing. Donna Poland will email the finished document to all members for approval via email.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Introduction: Bev made minor changes to this section. (contact person-Bev Catlin)
2. Accelerated Content: This group added a couple of paragraphs under advanced placement, early college residential programs (Mary Baldwin), and made some changes in Cambridge. (contact person-Catherine Ingrassia)
3. Specialty Schools: The group tweaked this section and edited for consistency throughout. (contact person-Mary Jane Mutispaugh)
4. Beyond the Classroom: This group made basic editing changes. (contact person-Rebecca Akers)
5. Differentiated Opportunities: This group made major revisions to the section. Lori Vaught and Carol Horn will carefully review this section during final editing. The group is seeking examples of acceleration for high school students. (contact person-Bev Catlin)

Brainstorming Possible Future Work: The group discussed possible tasks for this committee once the high school document is complete. Suggested areas of work include:

- best practices in demonstrating academic growth of gifted students;
- Virginia Commission on Youth 2012 Legislative Studies and Initiatives findings may be augmented by a gifted piece (for example teacher preparation, assessing student performance) vcoy.virginia.gov ;
- teacher licensure regulations have just opened up for review and revision so we may wish to examine requirements for gifted certification/endorsement;
- educational opportunities for gifted students at the middle school level; pull technology into this piece;
- best practices in integrating technology in instruction for gifted students (differentiation);
- identification and services for primary-age students (K-1)

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick — Brunswick has not mentioned cuts to gifted services. The school board will be voting on some changes to the local plan this month.

Beth Anderson, Prince George County — Prince George currently has resource teachers available at all levels. They have offered independent study at the elementary and high school levels and are seeking to build a continuum of services so that every gifted student would do an independent investigation at some point during their school career. A committee is being formed to investigate the appropriate curriculum for gifted and professional development to support the curriculum.

Bev Catlin, Charlottesville — Budget is tough for Charlottesville this year. This is the first time gifted education has been on the table. The division, in partnership with UVA, has received a grant for STEM labs, classes, and teacher training. This will begin this summer with re-doing middle school labs.

Sandra Cole, Buchanan County — Region VII gifted consortium has 17 cities and counties represented. The challenge is funding. They will offer professional development during the summer on Preventing and Reversing Underachievement. They also have considered a regional parent night promoting gifted education. They are looking at simplifying nomination forms for elementary students.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School — NASA VIMS Summer Residential Governor's School is currently in the planning stages for the upcoming summer. The entire staff is returning. This program is now under William and Mary Center for Gifted Education.

Patricia Ann Griffin, Henrico County — The Henrico County Gifted Advisory Committee met and made some changes in the screening and identification models for the division. Currently they are in the process of evaluating these changes.

Carol Horn, Fairfax County — The School Board is looking to do a study of services and programs and how they are aligned with best practices.

Catherine Ingrassia, VCU and Hanover County Advisory Committee — Hanover is facing 5.4 million in budget reductions. The Advisory Committee is focusing on middle school services.

Reginald Johns, Hampton City — pass

Dr. Stephen Keith, Longwood University — pass

Chiraag Khemlani, Business Representative — pass

Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Alleghany — The county is faced with a 1.5 million deficit. The school board is currently considering closing up to three elementary schools. The budgetary implications for gifted education are capping Governor's School enrollment at 14 students. Region VI Gifted Coordinators are planning an annual spring professional development opportunity.

Diane Naff, Montgomery — Montgomery County cut 4.5 million last year and 3.8 million this year. Blacksburg High School and Auburn High School will open in the fall. Montgomery County has a new gifted plan 2013–2018.

Dr. Michael Bolling, VDOE — A superintendent's memo was released today regarding budget adjustments in 2013 and 2014 fiscal years.

There were no public comments.

Bev reminded members that the next meeting will be April 19, 2013.

On a motion by Sandra Cole, seconded by Chiraag Khemlani; the meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Tour of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School: Students at the school took committee members on a tour of the school and answered a plethora of questions.

The executive committee met for discussion after the tour; the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.