

## Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

Minutes for September 21, 2012

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on September 21, 2012 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Patricia Griffin, Carol Horn, Sarah Gross, Catherine Ingrassia, Lori Vaught, Gena Cook Keller, Rebecca Akers, Beverly Catlin, Margee Greenfield, Beth Andersen, Joanne Funk, Reginald Johns, Amy Lamb, Stephen Keith, Diane Naff, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, and Dr. Poland.

Guest: Sharon Hicks, Roanoke City Schools

Members absent: Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Chiraag Khemlani, Sandra Cole, and Tomica Crosby

Beverly Catlin opened the meeting with introductions. Veronica Kouassi and Tomica Crosby have resigned VACEG effective immediately.

Approval of the Agenda: Beverly added a discussion of the New Governor's STEM Academies to the agenda. Margee Greenfield moved approval of the revised agenda. Rebecca Akers seconded.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from April 27, 2012 were approved with corrections via email.

Slate of Officers: The following slate of officers for 2012–2013 was presented for consideration: Chair—Beverly Catlin, Vice-Chair—Rebecca Akers, and Secretary—Mary Jane Mutispaugh. The slate of officers was unanimously approved.

### Discussion on VACEG follow-up to the Virginia Board of Education - Beverly Catlin

At the April 2012 VACEG meeting, members expressed concern about the fiscal impact that proposed STEAM initiatives could have 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. They voted for Beverly, the committee chair, to speak to the Virginia Board of Education regarding the fiscal impact of the proposed STEAM Academy on academic year Governor's Schools.

Because that presentation to the Board had not taken place, Beverly asked members if it would be more appropriate at this time to write a letter to the Board of Education expressing our concern. Members agreed to VACEG sending a letter that addressed two issues: 1) Any proposed STEAM initiatives would not have a negative fiscal impact on current academic year Governor's Schools, and 2) Dr. Poland be invited to serve on STEAM Academy planning committees in order to speak to the educational needs of gifted students. Beverly will draft the letter and send it to the vice-chair and Dr. Poland for review before it is sent to the Board of Education.

- Superintendents Memo # 102-12: Amendments to the FY 2012 Caboose Budget and the 2012-2014 Biennial Budget Adopted by the 2012 Special Session I of the General Assembly
  - 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.

#### Discussion on Recent Superintendents Memos - Beverly Catlin

Beverly asked Dr. Poland if there was any indication that the grants announced in Superintendents Memos #240-12 and #251-12 would have fiscal implications for academic year Governor's Schools. Dr. Poland said she did not believe they would, as they are in the Career and Technical Education arena, not in gifted education.

- Superintendents Memo #240-12: Announcement of Incentive Mini-Grants for New Governor's STEM Academies in School year 2012-2013
- Superintendents Memo #251-12: Announcement of Planning/Implementation Grants for Establishment of Governor's Health Sciences Academies in the Eight Superintendents' Regions.

#### Department of Education report by Dr. Poland

- Superintendent's Memo #232-12: Intent to Apply for a Grant to Expand a Part-Day Academic Year Governor's School to Full Day 2012–2013. This grant will provide money for studying the feasibility of moving to a full-time model and then provide additional funding for expansion. To date, Southwest Virginia Governor's School is the only site that is pursuing this opportunity.
- Superintendents Memo #233-12: Announcement of a Planning Grant for 2012–2013 for a New Regional Science and technology or STEM academic Year Governor's School in the Hampton Roads area. To date Norfolk and Portsmouth have applied for the planning grant to open a STEM Governor's School in their region.

- Academic Year Directors are working with Friends of Virginia Governor’s Schools to support in the education of legislators regarding the benefits of AYGS programs for students across the Commonwealth. There has been a change of leadership in the organization and they will continue with their advocacy efforts.
- The annual meeting of the Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators is on October 5. Dr. Poland is meeting with new coordinators on October 4 and is expecting as many as 45 new coordinators to attend. At the Consortium meeting, Dr. Poland will speak on data options from the state and the types of information that can be used to inform decisions.
- Virginia Association for Gifted (VAG) is having its seminar October 21–22 in Richmond. Margaret Gilhooley (Arlington) is the new Executive Director for VAG and Kelly Hedrick (Virginia Beach) is president. VAG has a new mission and vision for the organization. In addition, they have updated their website and added Facebook and Twitter to get information to parents and teachers.
- Summer Residential Governor’s School: Dates are set and documents are completed. Dr. Poland is waiting for final approval so information can be distributed via a Superintendent’s Memo. This may happen as soon as September 28 or October 5. School sites will charge activity fees for some of the programs, but parents or school may ask a site director to waive the fees if they are a financial burden for the family.
- Dr. Poland introduced Michael Bolling, the Director of Mathematics and Governor’s Schools for the Department of Education. Mr. Boling has added Governor’s Schools to his responsibilities. He thanked the VACEG for its service and compliments Dr. Poland for all she does for gifted learners.

Educational Opportunities for Gifted Students at the High School Level—Charge from the Board of Education

Beverly reviewed the charge we received from the Board of Education in Fall 2011. It included 1) identifying 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; 2) determining what programs, policies, or procedures are in place as support mechanisms for the high school program models; 3) determining the array of learner outcomes associated with each program model; and 4) determining the extent to which these models interact with VDOE initiatives, such as STEM education and career and college readiness.

Last year VACEG developed subgroups to look at different models—accelerative content, special schools, beyond the classroom, and differentiated instruction. Each group wrote a draft document for its area, but most need additional work. Dr. Poland asked that groups work on the content and she will focus on formatting after revised documents are sent to her. New VACEG members were assigned to a subcommittee. Members broke into their groups to continue working on their section.

### Subcommittee Reports:

1. Introduction: Bev will revise this section to be sure there is a clear distinction between student benefits and learner outcomes. The order of the document and the Table of Contents were changed to be more logical.
2. Accelerated Content: The subcommittee edited Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, and Early College. The document is ready for final editing so the committee will do that when Dr. Poland sends it out to the membership.
3. Special Schools: The subcommittee spend time doing fact checking the information, checking the form to see that all information is included, editing the magnet school part, and inserting additional tables.
4. Beyond the Classroom: The subcommittee completed this section and did final editing. It is ready for Dr. Poland.
5. Differentiated Opportunities: The subcommittee completed part of the document but is still drafting some sections. In the next few weeks, they will edit and finalize these via e-mail and forward the completed document to Dr. Poland.

Members discussed possible new charges for VACEG when this document is completed and presented to the Board of Education. The group will discuss possible topics at a future meeting.

### Member Reports:

Patricia Griffin, Henrico — Her division made adjustments and restructuring changes to the identification process and service model. They now have school-based programs for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Carol Horn, Fairfax County — The region has a strong Northern Virginia Council that held a conference in May for all teachers and parents. There was an opportunity for teachers from Region 4–East and Region 4–West to collaborate.

Catherine Ingrassia, Hanover — They have a new coordinator of gifted education.

Lori Vaught, Roanoke City — They have a new coordinator of gifted education, Sharon Hicks. The division is looking at their Plato Program and for ways to restructure the program to be sure they are equitably meeting the needs of all students.

Gena Cook Keller, Fluvanna — This was the first year their division participated in Destination Imagination. They had high participation and teams went to Globals.

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick — The division completed their new gifted plan. It allowed them to have some “teeth” in classrooms. Before school started, they had professional development for all teachers on gifted identification and instructional strategies. They will follow up with other sessions during the school year.

Beverly Catlin, Charlottesville — Their gifted plan was approved by the school board. The division changed their identification from general intellectual aptitude to specific academic aptitudes in English and mathematics.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School — This was her third summer as director of the Summer Residential Governor's School for Engineering (NASA/NIA) and Marine Science (VIMS). They had a great summer and students are continuing to work on and be recognized for the research they started during the summer program.

Beth Anderson, Prince George — The division had the College of William and Mary evaluate their program. Following the recommendations they received, they completed some revising and fine-tuning.

Joanne Funk, Norfolk — South Hampton Roads had numerous questions about their local plan and gifted education, including continued discussions about racial disparity. The new local plan focuses more on curriculum. That area also started a group of retired teachers to focus on future problem solving and be available to support students.

Reginald Johns, Hampton City — They are increasing their services to middle school students by providing seminars bi-weekly for those students that do not attend the gifted center.

Stephen Keith, Longwood — He has been doing consulting work in Honduras. It is the first program for identified gifted students in their country.

Diane Naff, Montgomery County — The division had a strong summer program with over 500 students participating in their local summer enrichment program and Camp Invention. Due to budget constraints and reduction-in-force efforts, the county made changes to its gifted staffing. They lost 2 gifted resource teacher positions and their supervisor position was reduced to .5. They will not be participating in Summer Governor's School in 2012–13.

Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Suffolk — Earlier in the year, a demographics report was developed. It showed that their majority is the minority that other divisions are talking about. The division is working on additional research for possible changes or ways to communicate changes. They plan to have a seminar in the fall and are looking for dynamic speakers.

#### Public Comments:

Sharon Hicks, from Roanoke City Schools, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to be a guest at our meeting. She learned more about VACEG and its work for gifted education in Virginia.

#### VACEG Meeting Dates for 2012–2013

The meetings for the year are scheduled for December 7, February 8, and April 19.

On a motion by Margee Greenfield and seconded by Catherine Ingrassia, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm. The executive board met following the meeting.