

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

September 25, 2015

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on September 25, 2015 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Donna Poland, Lesley Hunley, Robert Hundley, Beth Andersen, Janice Robertson, Kimberly Waite, Melissa Powers, Kirsten Maloney, George Fohl, Sarah Haywood, Laura Kelly, Valerie Tuck, Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey

Members absent: Patty Griffin, Cheryl McCullough, Sandra Cole, Melanie Daniel, Teresa Ellison, Kevin Kendall, Elizabeth Schupp

Visitors: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School PTSA member

Lesley Hunley opened the meeting at 10:18 am. New members were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of the Agenda: Beth Andersen moved approval of the agenda, Robert Hundley seconded. All were in favor.

Election of Officers: Lesley Hunley presented the names of the nominees: Lesley Hunley, Chair; Patty Griffin, Vice-Chair; and Cheryl McCullough, Secretary. Robert Hundley moved to elect the slate as presented. Jan Robertson seconded. All were in favor.

Department of Education Report-Dr. Donna Poland

- Licensure regulations are up for public comment, including the gifted education competencies and endorsement requirements. Dr. Poland will send these out to the group for review. A subcommittee of Robert Hundley, Beth Andersen, and Valerie Tuck will organize comments on behalf of VACEG, which Lesley will submit on behalf of the group.
- Summer Residential Governor's School applications are now separate for each program. They will be posted online by 4:00 pm on October 2nd. Additionally, the adjudication process has been updated and scores will be sent electronically to coordinators. There will be two new sites: GMU (northern VA) and the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk (southeastern VA).
- Regions I and III are undergoing technical review this fall. Results will be sent to those division superintendents in January/February 2016.
- Statewide Meetings:

- o The Virginia Consortium for Gifted Education Administrators was held last week. There are 35 new coordinators across the state, wearing a variety of hats. Many do not have an endorsement in gifted education. At this time, it is not a requirement of the regulations. VACEG members discussed the importance of having gifted education endorsement and how we may go about making such a change.
- o Academic Year Governor's School Directors held their first meeting of the year. There are two new directors: Chesapeake Bay and Southside Virginia.
- o The Virginia Association for the Gifted will hold their conference on October 26th-27th in Richmond.
- o The NAGC conference is in Arizona from November 12th-15th.
- The academic year Governor's Schools funding study included several funding options. This study is posted on the VA LIS system. The VDOE was asked to make calculations on both options 8 and 9. Either option 8 (regular school funding model) or option 9 (funds at 9/6 for full-time programs) may go forward to the governor's budget this year.
- There is advocacy for additional funding for Summer Residential Governor's School programs as well. Costs have continued to increase and the funding has not kept up with the increases.
- The proposed Summer Regional Governor's School for Career and Technical Advancement in Hanover (for Regions I and III) was presented for first review to the Board of Education on September 10th. The proposal is up for final review on October 22nd. This program will have a residential component and is designed to bring together students with a diverse group of skill sets. After program approval, the General Assembly would have to approve funding for the program. A start date is unknown at this time.

Charge from the Board of Education-Underrepresented Populations: Dr. Cannaday and the Board of Education charged the committee with investigating best practices for approaches to the identification of gifted students to better promote equity and opportunity across all student demographic groups. This charge is to be completed by July 2017.

Working Lunch in Subcommittees: The group divided into subcommittees to brainstorm ways to address each of the four tasks outlined in Board of Education's letter.

Subcommittee Reports: Each subcommittee shared their ideas for addressing the tasks and outcomes from the Board of Education's charge. The following is a tentative timeline that the whole group developed together:

- Before December meeting:

- o Dr. Poland will distribute quantitative demographic data on identification.
- o Group members will share pertinent articles.
- o Having a guest speaker (perhaps from Jack Kent Cooke) will be explored.
- December meeting:
 - o Determine sites that we will be highlighting in our report and visiting.
 - o Divide up into subcommittees by site.
 - o Identify “look fors” and examine local plans.
 - o Create pre-visit questionnaire and interview/observation protocol.
- Before February meeting:
 - o Send out and have returned all pre-questionnaires.
 - o Schedule site visits (to be completed by April 22nd).
- February meeting:
 - o Create the outline/structure of the final document.
 - o Review pre-questionnaire information.
 - o Discuss links to research and best practices (regulations, NAGC programming standards, etc.).
- Before April meeting:
 - o Conduct site visits and complete interview/observation protocol.
 - o Identify any sites that require a follow up visit or more information.
- April meeting:
 - o Examine commonalities among site visit results.
 - o Begin the write up of the final report.
 - o Begin planning for the forum/focus group/networking event.
 - o Outline next steps for the coming year.

Member Reports:

Lesley Hunley – Mathews – Please keep VACEG member Sandra Cole and her husband in your thoughts and prayers.

George Fohl – Chesterfield – His focus now is on teacher training and providing professional development for them, i.e. helping teachers to better understand differentiation for gifted learners. He has an internet site built with simple resources. He is trying to make resources readily available for low-prep ways to start differentiating.

Robert Hundley - Hanover – He is involved in the proposal for gifted CTA-GS summer program and is hoping for funding from General Assembly.

Kim Waite – Middlesex – She is conducting 4th grade identification. Middlesex needs a school psychologist. They are participating in technical review. Middle Peninsula Summer Regional Governor's School went very well.

Jan Robertson – Amelia – There is a new person in charge of the gifted program – director for instruction and human resources (Dr. Eagle). There is a push for communication about the gifted program to parents and teachers.

Kirsten Maloney – Fairfax – In addition to the curriculum and gifted professional development in place for teachers, FCPS is working with advanced academic resource teachers and center lead teachers to look at cultural proficiency from an individual, instructional, and institutional perspective in order to continue to try to improve referrals, identification of gifted behaviors, and differentiated instruction.

Melissa Powers – Brunswick – They just completed gifted screening. She attended Consortium last week and enjoyed the quick bits and grab and go ideas. As the GT resource teacher, she wants to do more professional development with teachers and hoping the grab and go will be helpful. She also hopes to use the high school brochure that was created by Culpeper. She held a parent meeting on the summer Governor's School program and has information on the website.

Donna Poland – VDOE – At consortium there were short four-minute talks about what is happening really well in a division. She will try to put some of these on the VDOE website with contact information to share.

Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey – Virginia Beach – VBCPS have a new superintendent who is from Virginia Beach and who was identified gifted as a child. VBCPS's five year plan was approved by the school board. Dornswalo will be presenting at VAG and NAGC.

Sarah Haywood – York – She asked to talk about acceleration at the last Region II meeting. Her gifted resource teachers are working with cluster teachers to help them better work with gifted learners.

Valerie Tuck – Norfolk – They are using an evaluation tool for K-5 learners based on Habits of Mind. Secondary gifted resource teachers are developing a newsletter to go to the parents to create a unified message.

Laura Kelly – Roanoke – Region VI is hosting a guest speaker, Bob Iseminger, in October.

Robert Hundley moved the meeting be adjourned. Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next meeting: December 11, 2015 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School