

**Virginia Commission on Civics Education**  
**Notes from 4-3-2012**

The Chair, Delegate Anderson, called the meeting to order and asked the clerk to call the roll.

Members Present: Delegate Anderson, Delegate Tata, Senator Petersen, T. Coen, J. Dillard, B. Gibson, G. Hoptman, J. McGlennon, G. Stanley, B. Thurston, Jen Howell (for S. O'Brien)

*Logistics, timing, and theme of 2012 Virginia Civics Summit (annual fall conference)*

-Members discussed dates to avoid in November including Virginia Association of County Officials event, elections on 6<sup>th</sup> and Senate and House Finance retreats. Members decided on November 8<sup>th</sup> with clerk polling members to see if any conflicts.

*Cooperative programs by the Commission with the offices of the House and Senate Clerks*

-Jay Pearson, LEAD Manager, House of Delegates, spoke about the VCU Pre-Service Teacher Institute. Chair Anderson said he will discuss further options with Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates and Susan Schaar, Clerk of the Senate and report back to the commission.

*Update on Civics issues during 2012 regular legislative session (on-line Civics course for teachers, extension of Commission sunset, and letter to Governor's Policy staff)*

Delegate Dillard and Senator Petersen discussed legislation which passed the General Assembly, taking away the online civics course for teachers. Dillard discussed drafting a possible letter to the Governor asking for an amendment. Members also discussed the commission's extension, as long as it receives outside funding, however a reenactment clause with a sunset for the commission is still in the Code of Virginia. Senator Petersen stated that there is an amendment in the current budget in conference which fixes this.

*Recurring efforts to cancel the 3rd grade SOL exam and the broader context of assessment; consideration of related issues and options available to the Commission*

Hoptman discussed and also thanked Dillard for his hard work. Chair Anderson asked Hoptman to set up a meeting with the Virginia Department of Education to discuss further.

*Guidelines by the Virginia Board of Education regarding access to classrooms by elected officials and candidates*

Members discussed each locality has different rules on what is appropriate/allowed in schools. The Commission decided it would be good to have a statewide statement on how to handle such situations.

*Appointment of new members to the Commission:*

Chair Anderson discussed desire to find out which current members would like to continue to serve. It was also noted that there are currently two vacancies on the commission. Members discussed possible appointments and recommended both Senators Blevins and Marsden.

*Discussion of ways to enrich students exposure to state and local government issues in regular, AP, and IB courses on the Virginia and U.S. governments and discussion on ways to increase opportunities for student engagement in political matters, public decision-making processes, and youth internships:*

Discussion from Coen and Dillard. Chair Anderson asked Coen to take the lead on this and gather information for the next meeting.

*Other issues brought to the Commission by members*

Dillard and Chair Anderson shared a document provided by the Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier which makes recommendations to the commission.

*Logistics for future Commission meetings: Date/timing/venue for regularly recurring meetings; formalization of the agenda process*

Chair Anderson and members discussed meeting the first Monday of every quarter with the next meeting being July 2 at James Madison's Montpelier. Chair Anderson asked the clerk to poll the members for their availability.

*Adjourn*