

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted  
Fulghum Center, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Richmond, Virginia  
May 13, 2005

Members attending:

N. Ballinger	R. Grillo
K. Bremner	M. Hardt
E. Brown	G. Hubbard
V. Carey	J. Marler
C. Chilton	B. McGonagill
C. Cottrell	E. Mebane
C. Dillon	M. Roark
C. Estes	E. Snyder
L. Frye	A. Wyatt
J. Green	

VACEG Chair C. Cottrell called the VACEG Board to order at 9:25 am. The meeting began with brief introduction of VACEG Board members. J Green moved approval of the VACEG agenda. N. Ballinger seconded. The VACEG agenda was approved.

C. Chilton moved approval of the VACEG minutes from the March VACEG Board meeting. L Frye seconded. The minutes were approved.

Chair Cottrell called for the report from the Virginia Department of Education. B McGonagill gave the DOE report.

R. Grillo, Specialist in Gifted Education, was introduced. R Grillo will serve as a project coordinator for Project PROMISE, a Javits Grant program designed to help disadvantaged children develop critical thinking skills as they learn about earth science and about life science. Presently, the program involves Prince William County, Norfolk, Martinsville and Greenville.

B. McGonagill presented information about the new peer review plan to gifted educators in Regions I, II, III, VI, VII and IX. Under the new plan, peer review teams will have three members: one member endorsed in gifted education, one gifted coordinator with at least 5 years experience with gifted education and one new team member. This plan will help acclimate the 42 new gifted coordinators across Virginia to the peer review process. Teams will examine documents from a region other than their own region.

The Academic Year Governor's Schools have had a good year, and more schools are being added to serve Virginia's gifted students. In 2005, the Massanutten Governor's School for Environmental Science is set to open.

The Summer Residential Governor's Schools applicant numbers continue to grow. Costs continue to rise with the number of students. Gifted coordinators should be made aware that costs accrue for applicant adjudications both when students attend auditions and when students do not attend auditions.

NASA/Langley has been targeted for lay-offs, and the base may be affected in some ways by the funding cuts and base closings being carried out by the US military services. The director at NASA VIMS is retiring, so the program may undergo changes.

Summer Regional Governor's Schools evaluated in 2005 included Piedmont, Tidewater, Valley Ridge and UVA Wise. Three Academic Year Governor's Schools are set to be evaluated in the 2005-2006 school year: Piedmont, Maggie L Walker and Jackson River. Much discussion followed the DOE report.

The VACEG Board discussed proposed changes to the VACEG bylaws. After discussion, G Hubbard moved adoption of the revised bylaws and E Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

Much discussion centered on the term length for VACEG Board members. Discussion developed around writing a letter to BOE President Tom Jackson to suggest three year terms for VACEG Board members to continue historical continuity and assist with current decision making. G Hubbard moved that such a letter be written. E Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Cottrell called for VACEG subcommittees to convene for discussion. Subcommittees continued to work through lunch, and the Parent-Community Involvement subcommittee also met.

Curriculum Subcommittee reported about the discussion of the matrix, the Virginia regulations, guiding questions for local plans, questions to support and develop thinking, and benchmarks. Possible changes could be made for clarity to tie to benchmarks and help develop on-target guiding questions.

Delivery of Services Subcommittee reported about the chart that was added, the differences in the needs of students at the elementary level and the secondary level, issues discussion and adding addenda for explaining gifted information.

Chair Cottrell thanked the VACEG subcommittees for their concentrated work.

Chair Cottrell called for reports from professional groups represented by VACEG. N Ballinger reported that the gifted consortium would be meeting in October.

M. Roark reported that VSBA had its best attended conference in years in Williamsburg. One of the major topics was use of technology in education, especially the use of wireless technology in school systems. The NSBA meeting was held in San Diego.

J Green-Flint discussed Summer Regional Governor's Schools.

E Brown highlighted the VAG Conference, set for 27-29 October in Williamsburg, with a special set of sessions for parents about referring students for gifted services and sessions to help parents understand ability grouping. VAG is in the process of writing a position paper on A Nation Deceived, a report produced at the University of Iowa.

G Hubbard reported that a special presentation had been made at the school board conference to detail a specific program initiation in Prince William County.

L Frye spoke for local parent advisory groups. In Prince Edward County, the local plan is under review and there may be complications to be worked out in the area of delivery of services.

C Cottrell reported that Academic-Year Governor's Schools representatives met at Sweet Briar College with K Brimijoin. Small group sessions yielded much helpful insight and inspiration. Work on a web page continues.

B McGonagill reported that there are thirty excellent sets of curricula from Summer Residential Governor's Schools.

J Marler reported information from the VEA Convention, noting especially that educators from all areas of education bring ideas and information to the VEA Convention which help change the tenor of public education for everyone.

Chair Cottrell called for the presentation of certificates of service to VACEG Board members who are stepping down from the VACEG Board. Chair Cottrell and B McGonagill presented certificates to N Ballinger, C Cottrell, G Hubbard and J Marler with appreciation for their service to gifted education in Virginia.

No public comment was made.

Chair Cottrell called for adjournment at 3:00 pm.