

# Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

## Minutes for April 19, 2013 Meeting

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on April 19, 2013 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Beverly Catlin, Rebecca Akers, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Beth Andersen, Sandra Cole, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Joanne Funk, Margee Greenfield, Patricia Ann Griffin, Sarah Gross, Carol Horn, Reginald Johns, Stephen Keith, Gena Keller, Chiraag Khemlani, Diane Naff, Lori Vaught, and Dr. Donna Poland.

Members absent: Catherine Ingrassia and Amy Lamb

Visitors: Three parents from Henrico County: Vanessa McFadden, Rachel Woodhouse, and Penny Moss; Jim Mudd, Gifted Supervisor of Prince William County Public Schools.

Beverly Catlin opened the meeting at 10:05 am with a moment of silence in reflection of the Boston marathon bombing.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes were approved via email. This approval was affirmed at the meeting. Lori Vaught moved approval of the minutes, Rebecca Akers seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Agenda: Diane Naff moved approval of the agenda and Sandra Cole seconded. All were in favor.

Recognition of Departing Members: Donna Poland recognized departing members Beverly Catlin, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Diane Naff, and Amy Lamb.

Nomination of Officers for 2013-2014: The following slate of officers was presented as follows: Chair-Rebecca Akers, Vice Chair-Carol Horn, and Secretary-Sarah Gross. The slate was presented at the final meeting of 2012-2013 and will be voted on at the first meeting of the 2013-2014 school year.

### Department of Education report-Dr. Donna Poland

- Teacher Licensure and Competencies have been opened. This begins the process of change. An email has been sent out to constituent groups inviting input on changes and revisions to the licensure requirements. Recommendations for revisions for gifted endorsement include the number of courses for gifted endorsement to remain at four. There are specific recommendations for course content to include curriculum, instruction, program planning, social/emotional characteristics of gifted students, and trends and issues in the field of gifted education. As soon as recommended revisions are released for public comment Donna will send out an email to various constituent groups.
- VDOE was able to give a small 3% raise to Summer Residential Governor's Schools. Food costs have increased over the last several years (some as high as 14%) and this will assist in meeting

those costs. The RFP for 2014 Math, Science and Technology Summer Residential Governor's School just closed. When private institutions get the contract (as is the case with Lynchburg College currently holding the MST contract), it must be put out for RFP every five years. On another note, the 2013 Summer Residential Governor's School student letters went out this week. It was a very competitive year for applicants.

- On April 10, Dr. Poland met with the Military Compact Council to discuss gifted services in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There is a link to resources on the Gifted VDOE webpage. [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student\\_family/military/va\\_council/resources/navigating\\_gifted\\_ed\\_gov\\_school\\_military\\_transfer.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/resources/navigating_gifted_ed_gov_school_military_transfer.pdf)
- The document "Educational Opportunities for Gifted Students at the High School Level" has been through the review process and it is anticipated that it will be presented to the state board in July.
- Dr. Poland contributed to the Foundation Blocks for Preschool Students by providing potential learning activities that addressed the some of the needs of gifted students.

Brainstorming Possible Future Work: The group divided into three subgroups (X, O, Y) to discuss possible tasks for this committee for 2013-2014. Each subgroup indicated their top three focus areas (as indicated after each item on the brainstormed list below). It was also decided by the entire group that since teacher licensure regulations have just opened up for review and revision, the committee may wish to examine the proposed requirements for gifted certification/endorsement. The committee would spend part of an upcoming meeting discussing the proposed endorsement revisions in order to submit comments to the VDOE. Other suggested areas of future work include:

- best practices in demonstrating student growth of gifted students; (X) (O) (Y)
- 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](http://vcoy.virginia.gov) ;
- educational opportunities for gifted students at the middle school level-pull technology into this piece (a companion guide to the high school document); (X) (O) (Y)
- educational opportunities for gifted students at the elementary school level; (Y-break down into K-2 and 3-5)
- best practices in integrating technology for instruction for gifted students (differentiation); (X) (O)
- identification and services for primary students (K-1); (O)
- social-emotional needs of gifted students; (X)
- parent resource guide-parent involvement structure for a resource guide.

Recommendation to the Virginia Board of Education for 2013-2014 Task: The committee will recommend the following tasks to the Virginia Board of Education: best practices in demonstrating academic growth and educational opportunities for middle school.

Suggestions for best practices in demonstrating academic growth:

- Categories of assessment with practical examples-curriculum materials, performance assessments, standardized assessments, formal assessments, thinking skills, and informal assessments. Multiple purposes for demonstrating academic growth. Correlating assessment to delivery model. Narrowing in on the important pieces to assess before moving on in a subject area.
- Delivery model at different grade levels. Need to include art-talented and CTE identifications. Options that schools would have for proof of academic growth.
- Concern that this area is too new, but perhaps should be included in educational opportunities at levels (middle, upper elementary and primary).
- Social-emotional needs of gifted students.

Suggestions for educational opportunities:

- Begin with 6-8. Some of those pieces may go down to lower grades. Build off the high school document. Come up with the categories as a group. Add instructional technologies in to this area. STEM initiative in this area.
- This needs to be at the same level of comprehensiveness as the high school document.
- Categories may include: enrichment opportunities, summer opportunities, outside the classroom, in school/beyond school, technology, if by content area include an interdisciplinary strand, preparation for high school, social-emotional.

Meeting Dates for 2013-2014: September 27, 2013; December 6, 2013; February 21, 2014; April 11, 2014.

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers, Brunswick-Parent Advisory meeting just occurred. The county conducted an evaluation of program two years ago with a follow up this year.

Bev Catlin, Charlottesville-Charlottesville has just gotten two grants. UVA School of Engineering and School of Education is working with the division to create STEM labs at the middle school and high school.

Sandra Cole, Buchanan County-Southwest Virginia is looking at how to save money and how to get information from constituent groups. They are looking at web surveys for parents and regional meetings in a central location. Governor's School is excellent at UVA Wise. There will be a professional development opportunity in Abington on June 18 at the Higher Ed Center-Sylvia Rimm.

Margee Greenfield, Summer Governor's School-NASA VIMS Summer Residential Governor's School had an incredible pool of applicants this year.

Patricia Ann Griffin, VCU-Henrico County is continuing to assess and evaluate changes made last year. The division is also working on a transfer policy.

Carol Horn, Fairfax-The Northern Virginia Council created a Facebook page (nvcgte). The group is planning another conference next spring or fall for Region IV west. Fairfax just got a \$200,000 grant from Northrup Grummond to use a recently developed unit during the summer with twice exceptional students and Young Scholars. Fairfax has a new superintendent from Lubbock, TX.

Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Alleghany-Jackson River Governor's School will have an evaluation next week. Alleghany County has just closed two of the five elementary schools. The gifted staff will change for next year.

Diane Naff, Montgomery-Camp Invention and Summer Enrichment will be held the first two weeks of June. Region VI professional development opportunity on May 7 "The Stuff of Brains." Montgomery County just had a "marketplace" for gifted parents to see resources available and the Gifted Advisory Committee.

Lori Vaught, Roanoke-Roanoke City has done away with remedial summer school and will be offering an enrichment opportunity-RCPS Plus. Westside Debate Team won a magnum award with NSBA.

There were no public comments.

Bev reminded members that the next meeting will be September 27, 2013.

On a motion by Margee Greenfield, seconded by Diane Naff the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm. The executive committee met following the close of the meeting.