

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

February 21, 2014

The Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted met on February 21, 2014 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

Members present: Donna Poland, Lesley Hunley, Hunter Routt, Rebecca Akers, Patty Griffin, Carol Horn, Robert Hundley, Margee Greenfield, Sandra Cole, Carol Kennedy-Dickens, Joanne Funk, Beth Andersen, Stephen Keith, Chiraag Khemlani

Members absent: Catherine Ingrassia, Reginald Johns, Gena Keller, Janice Robertson, Elizabeth Schupp, Sarah Gross

Visitors: none

Rebecca Akers opened the meeting at 10:12 am.

Approval of the Agenda: Hunter Routt moved approval of the agenda, Margee Greenfield seconded. All were in favor.

Department of Education report-Dr. Donna Poland

- The group introduced themselves to new member Robert (Bob) Hundley – VSBA representative.
- Summer Governor's School Programs: Quickly approaching deadline - February 26th. Snow has impacted school division processes. An extension was given for foreign language programs.
- Changes to the Regulations for Professional Development: Currently in the government sign-off process. Department of Education anticipates that after the veto date, they will likely be open for public comment for 30 days (possibly late April-May timeframe). Dr. Poland will keep us updated as to the timeline. Dr. Poland suggested forming a sub-committee to discuss these prior to the public comment period and plans to encourage VAG to do the same. Patty Griffin, Joanne Funk, and Carol Horn agreed to serve on a VACEG sub-committee.
- Funding at Fort Monroe for STEAM Academy: The organization plans to have a governance structure outside of current K-12 education structure. They may be partially funded by state funds from student attendance and the remainder of the funding would come from businesses. Currently their budget is approximately \$19 million per year when fully operational and they plan to graduate 250 students per year. A resolution to support this academy in the House (HJ 111) was introduced but tabled. Dr. Poland is unsure as to where they stand in terms of an anticipated opening date.

- Legislation Updates:

- HB 887 – Governor’s Career and Technical Education School. Requires the BOE to establish procedures for developing a jointly operated Governor’s school as a CTE school. May be similar to the process for academic-year Governor’s Schools to help regional career and technical academies get funding from the General Assembly. These would not be specifically for gifted students, but some may choose to attend.
- Governor’s Budget – Item 136, #2S and Item 136, #1H. Both deal with funding for academic-year Governor’s Schools. These are like an amendment to the appropriate act, and are exactly the same. Both request that full-day high school diploma programs move to a 9/6 funding model.
- Governor’s Budget - Item 127F. This item was added to the Secretary of Education’s responsibilities - requiring that a study will be to conducted on the Governor’s Schools’ funding formula. Dr. Poland indicated this will be a great opportunity for Governor’s Schools to work with Secretary Holton.

- Upcoming Events:

- Wallace Symposium: In March in Washington, DC; Dr. Poland plans to attend. The symposium will focus on research related to the field of gifted education.
- Virginia Association for the Gifted Meeting – February 28th
- Academic Year Governor’s School Directors Meeting – March 3rd
- Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrator’s Board – March 17th

- Dr. Poland gave a brief update on the technical review process. The next round will take place in fall 2014.

- There are 26 divisions that do not have Local Advisory Committees, which is about 19.7%. Dr. Poland heard back from every coordinator in the state.

Subcommittee Assignment Update: Hunter Routt and Bob Hundley will work on Differentiated Opportunities. Stephen Keith will work on Accelerated Content.

Work in Subcommittees: The group broke into subcommittees to work on the middle school document.

Subcommittee Reports:

- Differentiated Opportunities: Sandra Cole (cluster grouping), Joanne Funk (advocacy and access for underrepresented groups), Carol Horn (acceleration), Bob Hundley (STEM/STEAM), Hunter Routt (digital learning), Elizabeth Schupp (cluster grouping)
- Accelerated Content: Beth Andersen (pre-AP/Springboard), Carol Kennedy-Dickens (IB MYP), Chiraag Khemlani (high school courses for middle school students), Stephen Keith (online opportunities; early college programs), Reginald Johns (honors courses), Catherine Ingrassia (magnet schools/academies)

- Beyond the Classroom: Patty Griffin (seminars, guest speakers, and field trips), Rebecca Akers (summer opportunities), Margee Greenfield (enrichment programs), Lesley Hunley (competitions and talent searches), Janice Robertson (enrichment programs), Sarah Gross (competitions and talent searches)

Goals moving forward: For our next meeting, each member should finalize their sub-sections of the document using the template Dr. Poland sent out and send them to one person in the group to compile. One member of each group will bring the compiled document in printed form to the April meeting to revise and work on as a group. Over the summer, Dr. Poland will compile all sections into one document so we can have a rough draft to review before the September meeting. Dr. Poland will work on the introduction with Rebecca. It will include a counseling component, which Jan will help with. We will review the final document at the December meeting and will possibly vote to move it forward to the Board of Education.

Member Reports:

Rebecca Akers: Brunswick is searching for a new superintendent. They are holding a gifted session on the upcoming March professional development day.

Patty Griffin: Record number of applicants for Maggie Walker in Henrico – 400+! On-going professional development about differentiation for K-5 teachers.

Bob Hundley: Hanover is going through the Maggie Walker application process. Hanover is also planning to restore two gifted teacher positions at the middle school level (that were previously cut from the budget).

Hunter Routt: Region VI professional development with Richard Cash, April 13-14. Working on Governor's School application process.

Margee Greenfield: Preparing for Summer Residential Governor's School and will have an all new staff of 3 this year. If you have anyone who may be interested in working at CNU for a month with the students (\$2,200 + room/board), please contact her. Must be 21 and a U.S. citizen.

Beth Andersen: Gifted coordinator (Sheila Roalf) is retiring - hoping that position will be replaced in the budget. Prince George is finishing up Governor's School applications. Elementary teachers are teaching thinking strategies for gifted students and professional development is going on to support this effort.

Chiraag Khemlani: pass

Joanne Funk: Has been doing professional development in Norfolk with elementary cluster teachers.

Sandra Cole: pass

Carol Horn: New superintendent in Fairfax and new Asst. Superintendent of Instruction. Both are very supportive of advanced academics. Northern Virginia Council (Region IV) is planning a conference for parents on a Saturday in the fall in Loudoun.

Stephen Keith: pass

Lesley Hunley: Finalizing selection of Chesapeake Bay Governor's School students.

Carol Horn moved that we adjourn the meeting at 1:35 PM. Hunter Routt seconded.

Next meeting: April 11, 2014 at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School