

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

February 19, 2016

Present: Donna Poland, Lesley Hunley, Patty Griffin, Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey, Valerie Tuck, Sarah Haywood, Laura Kelly, Beth Andersen, George Fohl, Kevin Kendall, Sandra Cole, Melissa Powers, Kimberly Waite, Teresa Ellison, Cheryl McCullough, Kirsten Maloney

Lesley Hunley called the meeting to order. Motion to approve agenda by Teresa Ellison. Seconded by Patty Griffin.

Department of Education Report

- Donna has been reviewing webpages and will be working with the VDOE webmaster to redesign the VDOE gifted and Governor's School pages. She asked coordinators to supply information about 'what's happening in gifted education'. She will try to update monthly some happenings in the state with a picture and short blurb; these will be archived too.
- Donna is working on improving data accessibility in SSWS so that coordinators can use the information to make informed decisions about their programs and services. Donna's goal is to have data to show student growth and trends in other areas, such as referral and identification.
- The Governor's budget included the new funding formula for Governor's School. An amendment was put forward to get rid of this formula and introduced a new formula but we will not know anything until February 21st.
- Applications for Summer Residential Governor's School applications due on February 25th.
- Hanover Summer Regional Governor's School for Career and Technical Advancement is sited in the Governor's budget to be fully funded in 2016.
- A suggestion was made for the January 2nd date to be changed for Summer Regional Governor's School for state adjudications. Donna explained that because of the tight schedule and the fact that the same judges attended each adjudication site, they had to start the first weekend after winter break. Next year the date should not be as close to winter break.
- Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey and Cheryl McCullough raised the issue of difficulty in finding an accompanist, especially families who may not have the means to pay for one. Donna indicated she would communicate this to the adjudication program director.
- Another issue raised by the committee was giving students credit for working for their family instead of doing outside activities and training in order to give them credit and points on the application. Donna shared that we do not have to rank students based on

points and that we can flag students who we think will benefit from this opportunity, but who do not have similar experiences and trainings compared to other students.

- ESSA
 - Gifted is mentioned in ESSA. Dr. Veronica Tate works at the VDOE with federal programs. Donna met with Dr. Tate about ESSA. Many people are trying to figure out what it actually provides to gifted education. Initially it was thought it would go into effect this year, but ESSA will become effective in 2017 school year.
 - Dr. Tate is building a notebook about what this means for the gifted community. While everything is still being explored and defined, Dr. Tate indicated that there may be three different funding streams suitable for gifted education:
 - Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants: These are based on Title I funds; \$12 million may be available under this funding stream. LEA's will probably have to apply for funds.
 - Magnet School Grants: These may be 3-5 year grants that may require LEA application. The amount of available funds is uncertain.
 - High Ability Learning Grants (formerly Javits Grants): \$12 million; exact requirements have not been stated.
 - Professional development money is also something we may be able to use. Donna will keep coordinators up to date as more information becomes available.

Subcommittee Reports and Develop Timeline for Follow Up

- Lesley Hunley asked George Fohl to share the results of the survey sent to coordinators about impactful practices for increasing identification of underrepresented populations. George shared that most coordinators in Virginia responded. George shared electronic documents for our work today.
- Donna suggested we review the information and create questions to ask the locals we visit.
- Lesley asked if we had a goal to visit a number of schools and whether we were looking at small, medium or large school districts. George shared that we want to look at the data and make decisions based on this information. Donna reminded the group to review the data that was shared at the last meeting.
- Donna reminded the group of the timeline for this group. Donna suggested dividing up the group between 4-5 people for visits and then do a case study on that location. Donna suggested we use the May/April meeting & the fall meeting for visits and use the rest of the year to do the write up for the presentations. Donna suggested that after teams visit each group should write-up their visit to be sure we have a record of the visit to help the new committee members who join VACEG this fall.
- The committee broke up into groups based on region to review the data to identify divisions to visit (see school chart included). Each group identified school systems to call for more information and potential visits (please see list at end of minutes). Donna will create the chart of schools for committee members to call and/or visit. George is creating a Google Document to organize this information for the committee. Donna will define a timeline for getting phones call completed and providing the required information to be assembled.

- After some discussion, it was decided that the report document would be written with heading of best practices in identification and then we would highlight certain divisions that were doing something outstanding with regard to that practice. We would start with phone calls and site visits may or may not be necessary. Once the phone calls are made the group would determine which site visits would be required. This is a different approach than the case-study approach that was discussed originally.

Reports from Members/Representative Groups

Middlesex – Kim Waite

- Attended Hanover Summer Regional Governor's School for CTA meeting and getting ready to nominate students
- Working with a professor from UVA doing a study on talent development in K-2

Arlington – Cheryl McCullough

- Program Evaluation – year 2 is observations. We have Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, Dr. Janice Robbins, and Gail Hubbard as our observers for this process
- Summer Residential Governor's Schools Committee selection is currently under way
- Twice exceptional committee – developing a link on the website to support administrators, teachers, and parents

Fairfax – Kirsten Maloney

- Rewriting professional development courses for Fairfax PD in gifted education
- Developed gifted education teacher coaches to do training for teachers

Buchanan – Sandra Cole

- Planning yearly in-service for differentiated instruction for teachers

Roanoke City – Laura Kelly

- Summer Residential Governor's School selection is currently under way
- Middle School program changed to core selection instead of having students taking all Honors courses
- Upcoming Share Fair on differentiation is being planned to address teacher's professional development in gifted education
- Attended the 20th Children's Engineering Convention in Roanoke, VA

Chesterfield County – George Fohl

- Summer Residential Governor's School selection is currently under way
- Testing is happening in multiple grade levels for identification
- Project SOAR addresses critical and creative thinking in three Title 1 schools (pretests have been given and post tests will occur at the end of the school year to examine student growth in critical and creative thinking)

Brunswick – Melissa Powers

- Regional Summer Governor's School applications are being processed
- Spring ID Testing of K-5 students (this is the first year serving first grade students)

- Gifted Day – all teachers and students visit to see what is happening in gifted education classrooms.
- Including product evaluation on gifted student report cards this year

York – Sarah Haywood

- Collaboratively working with multiple stakeholders on revisions to Local Plan

Norfolk – Valerie Tuck

- Gifted showcases was conducted to show what program and services look like for: Young Scholars Program – Gifted Program for Middle School
Gifted Progress Form – based on Habits of Mind
- Summer Residential Governor’s School – all high schools had applicants this year
- Presented revised Local Plan to School Board for approval

Virginia Beach – Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey

- Presented to principals group about equitable representation in gifted programs
- Selected Teacher of the Year nomination
- Planning summer conference for teachers of the gifted

Henrico County – Patty Griffin

- Working on high school course for credit in leadership, inquiry, and communication
- Region I staff development this summer with a focus on:
Socio-emotional
STEM

Mathews – Lesley Hunley

- Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School selection process is complete
- Nomination process for Hanover Regional Governor’s School for Career and Technical Advancement is in progress
- Received technical review for Local Plan and will be using that information for revisions
- Region III Key Instructional Leaders will host a regional gifted professional development day this summer. A possible topic is depth and complexity of curriculum.

Virginia Association of Gifted

Innovative Grants and Awards are available on the VA Gifted website. All applications are now digital.

Lesley Hunley asked for a motion to adjourn. Sandy Cole made the motion and Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey seconded the motion.

Outcomes from Survey: Divisions who show increases in identification due to the following and show potential for phone or site visit:

Referral Process

Charlottesville, Halifax, Harrisonburg, Montgomery, Rockbridge, Stafford

New Identification Procedures

- *Teacher Input in ID Process*
Brunswick
Chesapeake
Fairfax
Goochland
Henrico
- *Documentation of Gifted Behaviors and Observations*
Fairfax County
Martinsville City
Stafford
- *Portfolios*
Chesterfield County
Fairfax County
Isle of Wight
Lee County
Louisa County
Rockbridge
Stafford County
Warren County

Professional Development

Accomack, Alexandria, Chesapeake, Chesterfield County, Fairfax, Henrico, Montgomery, Newport News, Norfolk, Roanoke City, Rockbridge, Virginia Beach, Warren County

Data Analysis – What are your measures for success?

Martinsville City

Parent Education: Outreach and Partnerships

Alexandria, Brunswick, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Harrisonburg, Henrico, Lee County Public Schools, Norfolk, Newport News, Roanoke City Public Schools, Rockbridge, Virginia Beach