

**ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND
LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING**

Minutes
May 11, 2005

Meeting Date and Location: May 11, 2005
Holiday Inn Richmond I-64
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Rene Massey Ashjian	Mark L. Ingerson
Cynthia D. Baird	Linda W. Kelly
Sharon L. Condrey	Suzanne Meyer
Dr. William H. Graves, III	Donald Plank
Margaret Shibley Gray	James B. Scott
Rebecca Hill	Rena' White

ABTEL Members Absent:

Dr. Nancy Davenport
Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey
Dr. Ronald E. Diss
Cheryl Lightfoot
Sandra Smith-Jones
Gloria Talbott

Board of Education Liaison: Dr. Ella P. Ward

Ex-Officio Members: Rebecca Waters (for Susan Wood)
Dr. Gary Krapf

Department of Education Staff: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott
Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver
Patty S. Pitts
Dr. Melanie Biermann
Robert Triscari

Guests: John Mattar, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Donna Utakis, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Princess Moss, Virginia Education Association
Mary Cronan, Fairfax County Schools
Robert Lambeth, Virginia Council of Independent
Colleges
Liv Fedorko, Virginia Council of Independent
Colleges

FULL BOARD MEETING

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Linda Kelly suggested that a public comment period be incorporated into the agenda because ABTEL would be making major recommendations to the Board of Education. Dr. Bill Graves made a motion to approve the agenda including the public comment period. James Scott seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Suzanne Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Margaret Shibley Gray seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION TO THE FULL BOARD

Presentation on the Results of the Virginia Reading Assessment Validation and Standard-Setting

John Mattar, Senior Area Director, Assessment Service Department, National Evaluation Services, Inc., presented the results of the Virginia Reading Assessment Validation and Standard-Setting Study. ABTEL members had received a copy of the study in preparation for the presentation.

The Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) includes two tests: The Virginia Reading Assessment for Elementary and Special Education Teachers (Emotional Disturbances, Learning Disabilities, Mental Retardation, Hearing Impairments, and Visual Impairments) and the Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists. The presentation included information on Test Design, Test Validation Process, Validation of the Virginia Reading Assessment, and Standard Setting Panels.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Linda Kelly introduced the following guests attending the advisory board meeting:

John Mattar, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Donna Utakis, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Princess Moss, Virginia Education Association
Mary Cronan, Fairfax County Schools
Dr. Robert Lambeth, Virginia Council of Independent Colleges
Liv Fedorko, Virginia Council of Independent Colleges

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Kelly reported that even though Dr. Ron Diss could not attend the ABTEL meeting, he wanted the members to be aware of the concerns from nonpublic colleges regarding a requirement of an interdisciplinary major required for elementary education.

Dr. Robert Lambeth, President, The Virginia Council on Independent Colleges, spoke on behalf of nonpublic schools during the public comment period. The Council on Independent Colleges represents 25 nonpublic colleges, and 22 offer teacher education programs. Presidents and deans have expressed concern about implementing a requirement of an interdisciplinary major for elementary education. He stated that regardless of the major, institutions of higher education are accountable for the competencies within the program as well as meeting Praxis II-Content Subject Area requirements.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Teacher Education and the Professional Licensure Standing Committees met from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

PRESENTATION TO FULL BOARD

Linda Kelly made a presentation on the Special Committee of the Board of Education to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessments. She reported that three ABTEL members, Linda Kelly, Dr. Bill Graves, and Dr. Nancy Davenport served on the special committee. The committee held four meetings—March 30, April 13, April 22, and May 10. During the meetings, committee members received presentations on perspectives from other states on teacher education and licensure assessments. On May 10, the committee made the following recommendations to be forwarded to the Board of Education:

It is recommended that the Board of Education prescribe the following professional teacher's examinations for initial licensure in Virginia: (1) Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment; (2) Praxis II (content assessment); and (3) if applicable, the Virginia Reading Assessment.

Implementation of the Prescribed Professional Teacher's Examinations:

The implementation of the prescribed professional teacher's examinations would include the following guidelines:

1. The assessments [Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment, Praxis II, and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable] will be required for all individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia except individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching

experience with an effective license from another state at the time of application. The proposed effective date for the implementation of the licensure assessments is January 1, 2006, depending on the timeframe to develop the Literacy and Communication Skills assessment.

2. The Literacy and Communication Skills Assessment will be composed of two areas—reading and writing. The test will measure communication and literacy skills necessary to teach and communicate effectively with parents and others in the education community.

[Individuals will be asked to demonstrate comprehension and analysis of readings; development of ideas in essay form on specific topics, outlining and summarizing; interpreting tables and graphs; mastery of grammar, and mechanics; vocabulary; and writing.]

3. Requirements for admission into approved programs, including entry assessments, will be set forth in the *Regulations Governing the Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*.
4. Individuals otherwise eligible for licensure who have not completed the assessment requirements may be issued a provisional license not to exceed one full school year.
5. Individuals seeking the Pupil Personnel Services License and the Technical Professional License will not be subject to the assessments. *Regulations Governing the Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education* and the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* will set forth the communication and literacy competencies for these license types.

Linda Kelly reported that item 4 (Individuals otherwise eligible for licensure who have not completed the assessment requirements may be issued a provisional license not to exceed one full school year.) was approved with a 7-5 vote.

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott stated that this summer, an on-line tutorial program offered by Old Dominion University for Praxis I will be implemented. The Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant will support this initiative.

Dr. Bill Graves made a motion to support the recommendations of the Special Committee of the Board of Education to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessments. Jim Scott seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Teacher Education Committee

Dr. Bill Graves, chair of the Teacher Education Committee, presented the following report and recommendations from the Teacher Education Committee:

1. Dr. Graves made a motion on behalf of the Teacher Education Committee that ABTEL recommend to the Board of Education that the passing score for the two Virginia Reading Assessments be based on the recommendation from the Virginia educators participating on the validation and standard-setting studies. The Teacher Education Committee elected to use the cut scores recommended by the panel for the following reasons: (1) The committee recognizes the thoroughness and integrity of the validation process, (2) Virginia teachers and university faculty who teach reading or reading-related courses in universities and in P-12 schools provided input to the NES in the development of the test and the validation and standard-setting studies, (3) Since the VRA is the first test that Virginia has implemented that is not being used in another state or nationwide, the committee supports close adherence to the recommendations of the validation panels and NES, (4) NES has customized a test to meet the needs of Virginia as well as the expectations of the Board of Education for reading assessment, and (5) Institutions are still aligning curriculum with the VRA areas of assessment, and the cut scores recommended by the validation panels and NES are reasonable given the alignment process underway in the colleges and universities. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Dr. Graves made a motion on behalf of the Teacher Education Committee that revisions to the approved programs process should include separate accreditation from the program approval process and that the 20 standards be changed to five standards (first four standards focusing on process and accountability and the last standard focus on program accountability). In addition change the language to state that candidates seeking prek-6, middle education, and special education may complete a major in interdisciplinary studies and pass Praxis II. The motion was passed unanimously.
3. Dr. Graves made a motion on behalf of the Teacher Education Committee that a test review of Praxis II-0014-Elementary Content Knowledge Test be conducted and reported to ABTEL in early fall. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Dr. Graves made a motion on behalf of the Teacher Education Committee to recommend to the Board of Education that the program approval at Christopher Newport University be **approved with stipulations**. This was contrary to the review team's "approval" recommendation. The team cited one standard not met and 11 weaknesses so the committee recommended that "approval with stipulations" was more appropriate and closely aligned with the definition of the phrase, "approved with stipulations." The motion passed unanimously.

Professional Licensure Standing Committee

Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey, chair of the Professional Licensure Standing Committee, was absent; therefore, the committee requested that Patty Pitts, staff liaison to the committee, report on behalf of the standing committee.

1. Patty Pitts presented a motion on behalf of the Professional Licensure Standing Committee to recommend the proposed Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel to the Board of Education that include, but are not limited to, proposed revisions as follows:

Remove competencies in document and add the competencies to the approved program regulations
Clarify requirements to include assessments prescribed by the Board of Education
Review License Types (Initial Licenses) and Length of Licenses
Establish an International Educator License
Create Designations on Licensure for Paths to Teaching
Add additional endorsements by testing option
Modify renewal requirements (remove two options for renewal and describe options) and provide
Revise professional studies (Reduce Curriculum and Instruction to 3 semester hours; delete Foundations of Education; and add 3 semester hours in Instructional Design Based on Assessment Data and 3 semester hours in Classroom Management)
Increase clock hours of supervised classroom experience to 500 hours, 300 of which must be spend supervised in direct teaching activities
Allow Middle Education 6-8 endorsement with one area of academic preparation (concentration)
Incorporate the ACTFL tests approved by the Board of Education into the requirements
Add an endorsement for speech/language assistants
Remove endorsements in ED, LD, MR, and SD and add endorsements in Special education-adapted curriculum K-12 and Special Education-general curriculum K-12; Move the Speech/Language Disorders requirements under Support Personnel.;
Revise requirements for Administration and Supervision (Model Curriculum for the Preparation of School Leaders, Two-Tiered Licensure Program for School Leaders, and Comprehensive Internship Program)
Add a School Manager endorsement
Add a Mathematics Specialist endorsement
Change Names of Endorsements *art to visual art; *health and physical education to health, physical education prek-12, and driver education; *business education to business and information technology; *health occupations education to health and medical sciences; and

*work and family studies to family and consumer sciences.
Add authorization for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to review cases of individuals who have misdemeanor convictions.
Require individuals to appear before the superintendent's investigative panel before a license may be issued.

In addition, the committee recommends that the Department of Education staff edit the regulations to meet the intent of the recommended revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Patty Pitts presented a motion on behalf of the Professional Licensure Standing Committee that a test review of Praxis II-0014-Elementary Content Knowledge Test be conducted and reported to ABTEL in early fall. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Linda Kelly indicated that Dr. Ron Diss had suggested that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend some type of recognition for Dr. Mary Bicavarous, Virginia's first National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Kelly recommended that since Dr. Diss was not present at the meeting, this item could be addressed at the next ABTEL meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System

Rebecca Waters reported that the Virginia Community College System continues to work with school divisions to provide assistance. There is one additional year under the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant for the Career Switcher Program.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Dr. Gary Krapf reported that it appears that federal funding may be cut for Project Gear-Up, so they are reviewing the possibility of other grants. Higher education, businesses, school divisions, etc., have partnered together to work with the Robotics Competition held in Richmond.

The Department of Education

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott reported that this summer training will be provided for teachers interested in working with the Teachers for Tomorrow Programs. A Superintendent's Memorandum has been posted with three dates for training. Michael Myers at the Department of Education is the

contact for this initiative. The training is required prior to teaching the South Carolina Cadet curriculum used in the Virginia program.

A mentor teacher institute will be held June 22, 23, and 24 at the Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center. ABTEL members were invited to attend and participate in the institute. Expenses will be paid for participants.

Two on-line tutorials for Praxis I will be available this summer for teachers still needing to satisfy Praxis I for licensure. Teachers in the third year of their provisional license will be given priority.

The fall Milken Educator Institute--date to be announced--will focus on the appropriate role of cooperating teachers and student teachers in the preparation program. Approximately 150-200 teachers will be invited to participate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Kelly has been selected by her school division to plan for a Teachers for Tomorrow Program.

The Washington Post featured Mark Ingerson in an article about National Board Certification.

The ABTEL members recognized the outstanding work of Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey who has served two terms. Her last term will end on June 30, 2005. Mark Ingerson, Suzanne Myers, and Donald Plank were thanked for their contributions; they do not plan to seek second terms.

ADJOURNMENT

The ABTEL meeting was adjourned.