

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

MINUTES

Meeting Date and Location:

April 24, 2006
Richmond Marriott West
Glen Allen, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Jeffrey Arco	Dr. Ronald E. Diss	Cheryl Lightfoot
Rene Massey Ashjian	Dr. William H. Graves, III	Gloria Talbott
Cynthia D. Baird	Margaret Shibley Gray	Rena' White
Lisa Bowman	Rebecca Hill	
Sharon L. Condrey	Linda Kelly	
Dr. Nancy Davenport	Mary Kolman	

ABTEL Members Absent:

Betty Hobbs
James Scott
Robin Smith
Sandra Smith-Jones

Board of Education Liaison:

Dr. Ella P. Ward (Absent)

Ex-Officio Member:

Craig Herndon
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Dr. Rebecca Waters
Virginia Community College System

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott
Virginia Department of Education

Department of Education Staff:

H. Douglas Cox
Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver
Patty S. Pitts
Dr. Patricia Burgess
Dr. Karen Trump

Guests:

Michelene Dunlavey, Private Citizen
Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association

Dr. John Mattar, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
Dr. Dorothy Sluss, The College of William and Mary
Beth Smith, Education Testing Service

FULL BOARD MEETING

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Linda Kelly introduced to the advisory board the following guests: Michelene Dunlavey; Betty Lambdin; Dr. Dorothy Sluss; and Beth Smith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Ron Diss made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gloria Talbott seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Nancy Davenport made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2006, advisory board meeting. Sharon Condrey seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF ABTEL MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, assistant superintendent for teacher education, licensure, and professional practice, Department of Education, provided a review of the ABTEL membership and the process for nominations to fill vacant positions. He stated that Dr. Ron Diss and Sharon Condrey have completed two three-year terms and are not eligible for reappointment; Rebecca Hill is relocating to Charlotte, South Carolina and will not be seeking reappoint; and James Scott will not seek a second ABTEL term. Dr. Elliott reported the nominations for the following openings will be filled through a process determined by the Department of Education: 1) Classroom Teacher (Elementary Reading Specialist); 2) Classroom Teacher (Middle Grades-Science); 3) Division Superintendent; 4) School Board Member to complete an unexpired term of one year; and 5) Higher Education (Independent Institution). Dr. William Graves and Cynthia Baird will be recommended for reappointment. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will make a final decision on the slate of nominees at its July 2006, meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No individuals requested to speak during the public comment period:

PRESENTATIONS TO THE FULL BOARD

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)

Board of Education Action

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott provided the following review of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) recommendations and Board of Education approved action:

- On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved the individual scores of 235 (scaled score) on the reading and writing subtests or meeting the composite scaled score of 470 as minimum passing scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). In approving these scores, the board indicated an interest in reviewing the scaled scores after the pool of test-takers increases and additional impact data are available. The Department was asked to monitor the passing rates and present a report to the Board of Education after the first full year of administration.
- Prior to releasing any score results for the VCLA, National Evaluation Systems (NES), Inc. recalculated the passing rates for the standard-setting study group and noted a difference in the composite passing rate than reported originally. NES reported this discrepancy to the Department of Education immediately upon discovery. Based on the revised calculation by NES, two standard errors of measurement must be taken into account to achieve the intended action of the board at its March 22, 2006, meeting.
- A report clarifying the determination of the VCLA cut scores of 235 (scaled score) on the reading and writing subtests or meeting the composite scaled score of 470 as minimum passing scores will be presented to the Board of Education at its April 26, 2006, meeting. Subject to the board's decision that two standard errors of measurement be accepted, NES will complete the VCLA scaled score conversions and issue score reports to all test takers immediately following the board meeting.
- One thousand individuals took the VCLA on March 18, 2006.

Making the Transition from Licensure to Admission

Dr. John Mattar, senior area director, Assessment Service Department, National Evaluation Systems, Inc., was invited to present on key factors to consider in determining use of the VCLA as an assessment option for initial licensure and for entry or admission into teacher education

programs. During the March public comment period, a representative of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education recommended that the advisory board study the feasibility of such an option. To date, the VCLA only has been validated for initial licensure purposes.

Dr. Mattar explained that when validating a test for a related purpose, the following key issues should be considered: 1) legislative and regulatory requirements, and 2) relationships between the current purpose and related test purpose; current test content and related test purpose; current reporting and related test purpose; and the current passing score, including passing score process and related test purpose. To consider the VCLA as an assessment for initial licensure and entry into teacher education programs, the following actions should be taken: 1) examine legislative and regulatory purposes of the assessment for initial licensure and the intent of the policy for an assessment for entry; 2) conduct a survey of practicing teacher preparation faculty to determine how they rate the importance of skills tested on the VCLA as entry skills essential for admission into teacher education; and 3) examine the current VCLA passing score to determine its appropriateness as a passing score for initial licensure and entry into a teacher education program. It was agreed that personnel at the Department of Education and NES will investigate these issues and bring a report to ABTEL in September 2006.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention Issues Facing the Profession

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott provided an overview of “Teacher Recruitment and Retention Issues Facing the Teaching Profession,” to be presented to the Board of Education during its April 26th retreat. The purpose of the presentation is to assist the advisory board in generating supportive initiatives for the 2006-2007 school year. Information was provided on the following five major issues facing the teaching force in Virginia:

1. Recruit, prepare, and retain highly qualified teachers;
2. Increase preparation and recruitment in critical shortage teaching areas;
3. Enhance professional development to increase and sustain a highly qualified teaching force after 2005-06;
4. Continue development of comprehensive data system to support policy decisions in the teaching profession; and
5. Institutionalize selected Teacher Quality Enhancement initiatives such as Teachers for Tomorrow, Teachers of Promise, and The Great Virginia Teach-In.

Special Education Issues

Mr. H. Douglas Cox, assistant superintendent for special education and student services, Virginia Department of Education, presented a report on actions of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Mr. Cox stated that the SEAC has established a Personnel Preparation Sub-committee to examine more closely issues related to highly qualified special education teachers and to more effectively communicate with the ABTEL. Other issues considered by the sub-committee included an add-on endorsement for special education teachers in the content areas and the concept of Praxis II requirements specific to special education teachers. Mr. Cox expressed appreciation to advisory board members for their consideration and actions regarding special education licensure issues.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Teacher Education Committee and the Licensure Committee met from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Working Lunch and Recognition of “Retiring” ABTEL Members

During the April 24, 2006, luncheon, Linda Kelly recognized the following members for their contributions in service to the advisory board: Sharon Condrey, Dr. Ronald Diss, and Rebecca Hill. Each individual received a plaque for “distinguished service as a member of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.” A plaque will be sent to James Scott who was unable to attend the luncheon.

FULL BOARD

REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Teacher Education Committee Report

Dr. William Graves presented the report and recommendations of the Teacher Education Committee. The Teacher Education Committee made the following motions:

- 1. The Teacher Education Committee made a motion to the full advisory board to support the Virginia Department of Education and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) draft Partnership Agreement and to ensure the TEAC and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) partnership agreements are aligned in terms of rigor.
The motion passed unanimously.**

- 2. The Teacher Education Committee made a motion that the full advisory board recommend to the Board of Education to grant continuing accreditation to the teacher education programs at Eastern Mennonite University, Marymount University, and Virginia Union University.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. William Graves reported that the Teacher Education Committee will consider at the September ABTEL meeting approval for the Bridgewater College teacher preparation program upon review of additional information.

The committee continued discussion regarding consideration of the Praxis I or the VCLA as an option for the prescribed professional teacher's examination for initial licensure and for persons seeking entry into Virginia teacher preparation programs. The committee requested Department of Education personnel and NES to provide information at the next advisory board meeting on the definition of basic skills as used in the Code of Virginia, including the legislative history of how this definition evolved and other issues associated with this option.

- 3. The Teacher Education Committee made a motion that the full advisory board recommend that effective October 20, 2006, the Virginia Teacher of the Year recognition program be named the "Mary V. Bicouvaris Teacher of the Year Program" in honor of Virginia's first national teacher of the year.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Professional Licensure Committee

Cheryl Lightfoot presented the report from the Professional Licensure Committee. The Professional Licensure Committee made the following motions:

- 1. The Professional Licensure Committee made a motion that the full advisory board recommend that Department of Education personnel prepare language for the proposed *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* to incorporate an add-on endorsement in special education for the mild-moderate categories of learning disabilities, mental retardation, and emotional disturbance.
The motion passed unanimously.**

The Professional Licensure Committee further expressed support for the draft as presented but requests that special educators, special education personnel at the Department of Education, and personnel in the Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice work collaboratively to develop the proposal.

- 2. The Professional Licensure Committee made a motion that the full advisory board consider a content test for special educators to become highly qualified and satisfy the content test requirement.
The motion passed unanimously.**

The Professional Licensure Committee further recommended that the Department of Education review the Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (0511) assessment from the Education Testing Service to determine the feasibility of using this test along with the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) and the VCLA instead of the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014) assessment. The committee discussed the possibility of working with a testing company to develop a state content assessment if

the Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge assessment is determined to be inappropriate,

- 3. The Professional Licensure Committee made a motion that the full advisory board recommend revalidation and standard setting studies be conducted for the following three assessments: 1) Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014); 2) English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge (0041); and 3) Mathematics: Content Knowledge (0061). The motion passed unanimously.**

- 4. The Professional Licensure Committee made a motion to the full advisory board that Department of Education personnel review the proposed American Sign Language (ASL) endorsement requirements since some of the interpreters' tests do not appear to be appropriate for this endorsement. The committee recommended the use of the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) and the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) for ASL. Further the Department of Education will need to determine whether validation and standard setting studies need to be conducted. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Professional Licensure Committee also requested Department of Education personnel to provide additional information regarding the Texas State Education Agency Test for American Sign Language.

PRESENTATIONS TO FULL BOARD CONTINUED

ABTEL Accomplishments: 2005-06

Dr. Patricia Burgess, special education human resource specialist, Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice, presented a summary of ABTEL accomplishments for the 2005-06 school year. The summary highlighted recommendations for actions presented to the Board of Education during the 2005-06 school year as well as major projects undertaken by the advisory board.

Meritorious New Teacher Designation

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, director of licensure, Division of Teacher Education, Licensure, and Professional Practice, presented a summary of Meritorious New Teacher Designations issued for the 2005-06 school year. A total of 278 individuals from Delaware (2); Washington, DC (5); Maryland, (52); and Virginia (133) received the designation as a symbol of excellence.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Dr. Rebecca Waters reported the following information on behalf of the Virginia Community College System:

1. Twelve teacher education programs provide guaranteed admissions for individuals with associate degrees as long as students meet GPA and transferability and other curriculum requirements.
2. A total of 110 eligibility licenses have been issued for individuals participating in the Career Switcher Program this spring. Program completers will be eligible for hire during the 2006-07 school year.
3. The statewide Career Switcher Marketing Campaign will be coordinated by Byrd Latham supported by funding from the VCCS grant.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Craig Herndon reported the following information regarding the work of SCHEV:

1. House bill 517 established the New College Institute as a governmental instrumentality in the area of Martinsville and Henry Counties. The New College is charged with, among other things, expanding educational opportunities in the regions by providing access to degree-granting programs.
2. Senate Bill 540 established the Community college Transfer Grant Program for the purpose of providing higher education grants or vouchers to domiciles of Virginia who have successfully completed an acceptable associate degree program at a Virginia Community College and have been admitted to an accredited nonprofit or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. SCHEV is designated as the administering agency of the program and must promulgate necessary and appropriate regulations for its administration.

Department of Education

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott reported the following:

1. The appointment of Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr. as Virginia's next Superintendent of Public Instruction will become effective on July 1, 2006.
2. Dr. Thomas M. Brewster of Tazewell, Virginia has been appointed to the Board of Education. A ninth board member will be appointed from Southside Virginia.
3. The Mary V. Bicouvaris Teacher of the Year Program and Banquet will be held on October 20, 2006, at the Virginia Crossings Hotel.

2006-2007 ABTEL Meeting Dates

September 18, 2006

November 20, 2006

January 22, 2007

March 19, 2007

April 23, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.