

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Location:** January 25, 2010  
DoubleTree Hotel – Richmond Airport  
Richmond, Virginia

**ABTEL Members Present:**

Debra Abadie	Dr. Carole C. Grove	Patricia McGloine
Jeffrey A. Arco	Charlotte B. Hayer	Valeria C. Porter
Susan E. Bridges	Kathy Heil	Dawn Rees-Blakeman
Tracey L. Dings	Dr. Betty E. Hobbs	Angela S. Turley
Jaim L. Foster	Larry W. Lenz	Ann Y. Williams
Dr. Courtney Gaskins	Dr. Susan G. Magliaro	Dr. Philip L. Worrell

**ABTEL Members Absent:** Rena Berlin

**Board of Education Liaison:** Dr. Ella P. Ward

**Ex-Officio Members:** Dr. Gary Krapf (Absent)  
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Bill Hightower  
Virginia Community College System

Patty S. Pitts  
Virginia Department of Education

**Department of Education Staff:** Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver  
Dr. James W. Lanham, III

**Guests:** Patricia Balestrieri, Parent  
Dr. Cathy Fisher, University of Richmond  
Dr. Malcolm B. Lively, Virginia Wesleyan College  
Cathy Owens Oliver, Educational Testing Service

**Guests (continued):**

Dr. Timothy G. O'Rourke, Virginia Wesleyan College  
Bekah Saxon, Virginia Education Association  
Dr. Rick Tannenbaum, Educational Testing Service

**FULL BOARD CONVENES**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

- **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Tracey Dingus, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

- **Introduction of Guests**

Guests introduced themselves to the Advisory Board.

- **Approval of Agenda**

**Dr. Susan Magliaro made a motion to approve the agenda. Ann Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Approval of Minutes**

**Angela Turley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009, Advisory Board meeting. Jaim Foster seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

- **Public Comment**

Dr. Timothy G. O'Rourke, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, Virginia Wesleyan College (VWC), spoke regarding the teacher education program at VWC.

Ms. Patricia Balestrieri, parent, Arlington, Virginia, spoke regarding a licensure complaint.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Review of Standard-Setting Studies to Develop Recommendations for Passing Scores for the Praxis II Assessments in Business Education, Spanish Content Knowledge, German Content Knowledge, and French Content Knowledge**

Dr. Rick Tannenbaum, research director, Validity Research Center, Educational Testing Service, gave a presentation on the process used for standard-setting studies to develop recommendations for passing scores for the Praxis II assessments in Business Education, Spanish Content Knowledge, German Content Knowledge, and French Content Knowledge. Dr. Tannenbaum reported the following:

### **Praxis Business Education Assessment**

A standard-setting study was conducted on December 2-3, 2009, for the Praxis Business Education assessment which is required for individuals seeking a Business and Information Technology endorsement in Virginia. Educational Testing Service (ETS) conducted the standard-setting study on behalf of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for the new Praxis Business Education assessment. A detailed summary of the study, *Standard Setting Report—Praxis Business Education—December 2-3, 2009 – Richmond, Virginia*, was provided to ABTEL members as part of their meeting materials packet. The summary report includes participants, methodology, and recommendations.

The purposes of the study were to (a) recommend the minimum Praxis Business Education score judged necessary to award a Business and Information Technology Endorsement and (b) confirm the importance of the Praxis Business Education content specifications for entry-level business information technology teachers in Virginia. The standard setting panel's recommended passing score, or cut score, is to be presented to the Advisory Board for consideration. The Advisory Board will forward a recommendation to the Virginia Board of Education; the Virginia Board of Education will set the final cut score on the Praxis Business Education assessment.

The first administration of the new Praxis Business Education assessment will occur in fall 2010. The current Praxis Business Education assessment will be discontinued, with the last administration in summer 2010.

### **Praxis World Language Assessments in French, German, and Spanish**

Standard-setting studies were conducted on November 30 through December 3, 2009, for the Praxis World Language assessments in French, German, and Spanish that are required for individuals seeking the Foreign Language PreK-12 endorsements in French, German, and

Spanish in Virginia. ETS conducted the standard-setting studies on behalf of the VDOE for the new Praxis World Language assessments. A detailed summary of the studies, *Standard Setting Report—Praxis World Languages: German, French and Praxis World Languages Spanish—December, 2009 – Richmond, Virginia*, was provided to ABTEL members as part of their meeting materials packet. The summary report includes participants, methodology, and recommendations.

The purposes of the study were to (a) recommend cut (or passing) scores for the Praxis World Languages assessments and (b) confirm the importance of the content specifications for entry-level German, French, and Spanish teachers in Virginia. The standard setting panels' recommendations will be presented to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure for consideration. The Advisory Board will forward a recommendation to the Virginia Board of Education; the Virginia Board of Education sets the final cut scores on each of the Praxis World Languages assessments.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent for the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, discussed the following items:

- **Board of Education Approval on a Passing Score for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)**

On January 14, 2010, the Virginia Board of Education approved a cut score of 163 for the revised School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA). Mrs. Pitts provided an explanation of the Board's adjustment to ABTEL's November 2009 recommended cut score of 161. As recommended by ABTEL, the Board of Education approved that passing rates are to be reviewed after the following three Virginia test administrations: January 2010, July 2010, and September 2010. Dr. Ella P. Ward, Board of Education Liaison to ABTEL, thanked Advisory Board members for their work on this initiative.

- **Board of Education Approval of Biennial Measures and Matrices to Develop a Recommendation to Approve Education Programs Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Virginia as Required by the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia (8VAC20-542-10 et seq.)**

The *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* (8VAC20-542-10 et seq.), effective September 21, 2007, require colleges and universities that offer programs for the preparation of professional school personnel to obtain education program (endorsement area) approval from the Board of Education. Thirty-seven institutions of higher education in Virginia offer programs for the preparation of instructional personnel. Eighteen of the 37 institutions of higher education also offer programs for the preparation of preK-12 administrative and supervision personnel.

In implementing the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* in 2007, the Virginia Board of Education granted education programs offered at Virginia's institutions of higher education "*Conditional Approval*," and biennial accountability measures were required for each program. Based on the reports of the biennial accountability measures for July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2009, the programs were to receive one of the following three ratings by the Board of Education: *Approved*, *Approved with Stipulations*, or *Approval Denied*.

On January 14, 2010, the Virginia Board of Education waived first review and approved ABTEL's recommendation to grant education programs (endorsement areas) the "Approved" status with the exception of Saint Paul's College's education programs in Elementary Education PreK-6, History and Social Sciences, and Mathematics programs which are granted the status of "Approved with Stipulations."

Mrs. Pitts thanked Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver, director of teacher education, and her staff for coordinating this initiative. Mrs. Pitts also recognized Dr. James P. Lanham, director of licensure, for his role in reviewing the matrices for Administration and Supervision PreK-12, particularly as related to the review of internship requirements, and Brian Mason, technology specialist, for coordinating the biennial reporting process. Finally, Mrs. Pitts acknowledged with much appreciation the support of Department of Education staff in the Division of Instruction in the completion of the matrices reviews.

As a result of the reviews, several colleges and universities decided to no longer offer selected programs that could not be sustained, either due to limited resource support and/or low student enrollment. Members of the Advisory Board expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of program closings, particularly as the need for a more diverse, highly-qualified teaching force continues to increase. Members voiced a need to identify and implement effective strategies for teacher recruitment. Mrs. Pitts stated that a small committee is being formulated to address the biennial reporting requirements and the application of the requirements for colleges and universities with approved education programs. She extended an invitation for interested ABTEL members to serve on the committee. Dr. Carole Grove, Dr. Susan Magliaro, and Jaim Foster volunteered to serve on the committee. Dr. Ella Ward will serve as the Board of Education liaison to the committee.

- **Certification of Braille Instructors in Response to the 2009 Virginia General Assembly House Bill 2224**

On November 17, 2009, the Board of Education approved the following ABTEL recommendation:

The Advisory Board unanimously recommends to the Board of Education that a reliable, valid, and legally defensible assessment available statewide (to be determined) demonstrating Braille proficiency prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education be

required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Special Education-Visual Impairments. [The Department of Education shall follow policies and procedures relative to the procurement of such an assessment.] Additionally, contingent upon available funding, opportunities for licensed teachers with the endorsement in Visual Impairments be afforded additional professional development in the teaching of Braille through the Virginia Department of Education and the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The Advisory Board supports the Virginia Board of Education's efforts to include teachers of visual impairments in the *Standards of Quality* funding formula.

Mrs. Pitts stated that in response to the report submitted to the Virginia General Assembly regarding House Bill 2224, a working committee to determine a Braille assessment to be used with individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in visual impairments will be established. She extended an invitation for interested ABTEL members to serve on the committee, and Tracey Dingus, Dr. Courtney Gaskins, and Angela Turley volunteered. Dawn Rees-Blakeman volunteered to serve as an alternate member of the committee.

- **Review of the Assessment Requirement for Admission into a Teacher Education Program**

Mrs. Pitts overviewed previous discussions of Advisory Board meetings concerning possible test options for students seeking admission into a teacher education program. To summarize, effective January 1, 2006, the Board of Education approved the following assessments for individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia unless an individual meets the exemption criteria as prescribed in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*:

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);  
Praxis II (content) Assessments; and  
Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable.

Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) continued to be the prescribed assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs. The Board of Education also continued to allow the use of a composite score of the Praxis Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests to meet the Praxis I assessment requirement and the use of the SAT® and ACT® as substitute tests for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics).

ABTEL had previously discussed the feasibility of a composite score for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment Reading and Writing tests and the Praxis I Mathematics test as an option for students seeking admission into a teacher education program. However, since the tests are administered by different companies and are on different scaled scores, ABTEL members agreed that using a composite score would not be advisable and was not recommended.

**Dr. Phil Worrell made a motion for ABTEL to (1) allow the use of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs and (2) review the results of the college readiness study, when completed, on the *Virginia Standards of Learning tests* to determine if this is a viable option for students seeking admission into a teacher education program. [An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as a optional assessment for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests will be required to meet the Praxis I Mathematics assessment (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores)]. Ann Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon**

Standing Committees:

The Teacher Education Committee and the Licensure Committee met from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.**

Members of the Advisory Board convened for a working lunch.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Teacher Education Committee**

Dr. Carole Grove presented the report of the Teacher Education Committee.

**Agenda Item 1:** Review and Approval of a Recommendation to Accredit the Teacher Education Program at Virginia Wesleyan College through a Process Approved by the Board of Education

**Dr. Grove made a motion to the full Advisory Board that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend the Board of Education to accept the recommendation of the on-site accreditation review team for “accreditation with stipulations” of the professional education program at Virginia Wesleyan College.**

**The motion was approved unanimously with the exception of Dr. Susan Magliaro who abstained from participation in the discussions and voting regarding this agenda item because she had served on the college review team.**

**Agenda Item 2:** Request to Add a New Endorsement Program in Administration and Supervision PreK-12 at the University of Richmond

**Dr. Grove made a motion to the full Advisory Board that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the graduate level program in Administration and Supervision PreK-12 at the University of Richmond.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

Licensure Committee

Jeffrey Arco presented the report from the Licensure Committee.

**Agenda Item 1:** Praxis Program Update

The Licensure Committee received the report on the Praxis program update.

**Agenda Item 2:** Certification of Braille Instructors in Response to the 2009 Virginia General Assembly House Bill 2224

The Licensure Committee received the update on discussion of the *Certification of Braille Instructors in Response to the Virginia General Assembly House Bill 2224*.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Bill Hightower reported the following on behalf of the VCCS:

- There were over 130 applicants for the spring general education cohort of the Career Switcher Program ([www.educteVA.com](http://www.educteVA.com)). About 85 applications were received for the next English as a Second Language cohort.
- The 2009 Virginia General Assembly House Joint Resolution 678 requested the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Virginia Community College System to study the shortage of classroom teachers in the Commonwealth and specifically explore methods to attract students to the Virginia Community College System for the first two years of a teacher preparation program. The VCCS has the following three initiatives that supports the study:
  - Career Switcher Program;

- Guaranteed Admission Agreements between the VCCS and senior institutions (<http://www.vccs.edu/Students/TransferList/tabid/106/Default.aspx>); and
  - Programmatic Pre-Teacher Education Articulation Agreements between the VCCS and some Teacher Education Programs at senior institutions (<http://www.vccs.edu/Students/Transfer/PreTeacherEducationTransfer/tabid/591/Default.aspx>).
- “The Faculty Diversity Program was developed to create opportunities for graduate students to teach courses at a VCCS college while in graduate school. The program matches university students with community colleges in their local area. Students will teach a course this fall and will receive mentorship from a full-time VCCS faculty member.” To review information, refer to the following Web site: (<http://www.vccs.edu/FacultyStaff/HumanResources/FacultyDiversityProgram/tabid/414/Default.aspx>).

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

There was no representative from SCHEV in attendance.

Virginia Department of Education

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts reported the following:

- The redesigned Virginia Department of Education Web site was recently launched.
- On January 15, 2010, the VDOE submitted a *Race to the Top* competitive grant to U.S. Department of Education. Awards will be announced later this spring.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Patricia I. Wright, and Dr. Jane Foley, Vice president for Awards, Milken Family Foundation, announced the second of two 2009 Milken Educator Awards in a surprise notification on December 9, 2009, at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County. The recipient of the \$25,000 award was Ann Lam Wong, a high school biology teacher.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned.