

ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING

MINUTES

March 20-21, 2005

Meeting Date and Location: March 20-21, 2005
Omni Hotel
Newport News, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

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| Rene Massey Ashjian | Dr. William H. Graves, III | James B. Scott |
| Cynthia D. Baird | Margaret Shibley Gray | Sandra Smith-Jones |
| Sharon L. Condrey | Linda W. Kelly | Gloria Talbott |
| Dr. Nancy Davenport | Cheryl Lightfoot | Rená White |
| Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey | Donald Plank | |

ABTEL Members Absent: Dr. Ronald E. Diss
Rebecca Hill
Mark L. Ingerson
Suzanne Meyer

Board of Education Liaison: Dr. Ella P. Ward

Ex-Officio Member: Rebecca Waters (for the Virginia Community College System)
Dr. Gary Krapf

Department of Education Staff: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott
Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver
Douglas Cox
Patty S. Pitts

Guests: Joseph Hills, 2005 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Fairfax County Public Schools
Lynn Clark, Virginia Education Association
Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association
Connie Smith, Fairfax County Public Schools
Dr. Judi Swingen, Chesterfield County Public Schools

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005 –OMNI NEWPORT NEWS HOTEL

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, assistant superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, explained that the purpose of the Sunday, March 20, 2005, meeting was to provide additional time for members of the standing committees to discuss revisions to the licensure and teacher education regulations.

Dr. Elliott shared the following additional information:

- At its February 23, 2005, meeting of the Board of Education, President Jackson proposed the establishment of a special committee to study teacher licensure assessments. The committee, comprised of representatives of the Board of Education; the Virginia General Assembly; ABTEL; the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers; the Virginia Education Association; the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV); an institution of higher education with an approved teacher education program; a local school division superintendent; a school principal; and a school division human resources director, will meet as follows:
 - March 31, 2005 – Charge to committee and review of current policies and practices;
 - April 22, 2005 – Presentations about testing policies in other states related to teacher licensure assessments, and presentations about current research and trends; and
 - May 24, 2005 – Development of recommendations for the Board of Education.

The committee is expected to bring its recommendations to the Board of Education at its regular meeting on June 23, 2005.

- ABTEL's Praxis I recommendation is scheduled to be on the Board of Education meeting agenda on March 23, 2005.
- The five School Leadership Task Force sub-committees have met and developed recommendations for revising the school leadership preparation programs. The recommendations have been received by personnel in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure and will be included as part of the proposals for ABTEL's review.
- A call for proposals for Competitive School Division Grants for Leadership Development Programs was announced on March 4, 2005, via Superintendents Memo No. 50. Five grants of \$100,000 each will be awarded for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. School divisions that have a partnership agreement with a Virginia institution of higher education or another entity for a defined leadership development preparation program that addresses the leadership standards established by the Board of Education will be given priority in the selection process.

ABTEL members adjourned to Standing Committee meetings for Teacher Education Approved Programs and the Licensure for School Personnel, at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Joseph K. Hills, 2005 Virginia Teacher of the Year gave the dinner address, *Draw a Line in the Sand.*” He reflected on changes in teaching requirements that have occurred during his 45 years in the teaching profession. Mr. Hills concluded his remarks by reminding members of ABTEL and guests “...your task is to find that fine line (for defining effective teachers) by drawing up guidelines that ensure all in the profession who believe in our profession have a great passion for what we do. I cannot even begin to tell you how to accomplish this difficult task...But, I do know one thing and that is it is very important to insist that colleges and universities develop the best programs possible to produce future teachers of quality...to ensure that those teachers who follow me will be the best prepared... and to set high standards for the rest of the nation to consider--we must draw a line in the sand!”

The full ABTEL re-convened from 8:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to hear a presentation on the Christopher Newport University (CNU) Teacher Education Program from Dr. Marsha Sprague, director of teacher preparation, CNU, and Mrs. Susan Piland, director of staff development, Newport News Public Schools. The CNU offers a five-year Master of Arts in Teaching degree program with emphasis on a major in the liberal arts or sciences. The program features a dedicated faculty in 11 academic departments who administer the program; a partnership with an award-winning school district (Newport News Public Schools) that provides opportunities for rich field experiences; a program of study taught by faculty and professionals in a variety of disciplines; paid employment in the Newport News Public Schools in the fifth year of study; and advisors from the Office of Teacher Preparation who work exclusively with students who wish to become teachers, as well as advisors from each department involved in teacher preparation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005 - CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

Dr. Dorothy Doolittle, associate provost for academic affairs, Christopher Newport University (CNU), brought greetings on behalf of CNU President Paul Triple.

FULL BOARD CONVENES

Linda Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Sandra Smith-Jones seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Nancy Davenport moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2005, advisory board meeting. Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

WALK TO STUDENT CENTER

Prior to convening of Standing Committee meetings, Drs. Sprague and Doolittle led the group on a mini-tour of the CNU campus.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Teacher Education and Teacher Licensure Committees met from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

FULL BOARD RECONVENES AT 1:15 p.m.

The full board reconvenes. Linda Kelly, ABTEL chair, presides.

Teacher Education Committee Report

Dr. William H. Graves III presented the report of the Teacher Education Committee. The committee reported the following:

- (1) A recommendation to approve a recommendation to grant full approval of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and the Roanoke College teacher preparation programs.

The advisory board approved the recommendation of the committee unanimously.

- (2) An update on discussions held by the committee relative to the development of draft standards for teacher education standards

Teacher Licensure Committee Report

Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey Dale presented the report of the licensure standing committee. No items were presented for recommendation. The following items were among the topics discussed by the committee: testing out as a means of adding a teaching endorsement; renewal requirements for licensure; deletion of selected competencies from licensure regulations; increasing clock hours for field experiences; creation of mathematics specialist endorsement; interdisciplinary

majors for elementary, middle school, and special education endorsements; alternate routes to licensure for administration and supervision endorsements; and, the use of speech-language pathologist assistants.

Other Discussion

Linda Kelly announced that individuals ending their first term with ABTEL should notify Dr. Elliott in writing as soon as possible whether or not they would like to be recommended for reappointment to ABTEL for a second term. She entertained a motion to change the April ABTEL meeting date. After discussion by ABTEL members, James Scott made a motion to change the date of the next ABTEL meeting to April 13, 2005. Rena White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. ABTEL members will be notified of the location of the meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Rebecca Waters, representative of the Community College Career Switcher initiative, reported on behalf of Dr. Wendy Weiner. She indicated that 12 four-year approved teacher preparation programs have signed articulation agreements with community colleges in Virginia. She also reported that the second year cohort of the Community College Career Switcher program initiative has begun. Currently 24 students are enrolled in the program for the spring 2005 semester.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Dr. Gary Krapf, associate director for Gear Up, reported on behalf of SCHEV. Dr. Krapf indicated that the Gear Up grant has been renewed for another six-year period. The main thrust of the grant is increased college access for individuals. This project focuses on 16 high-poverty schools in Virginia to raise expectations for student's academic success and increase high school graduation and college attendance rates. The program serves 3,519 students from low-income families.

Dr. Krapf noted that the charter initiative spearheaded by the College of William and Mary, Virginia Tech, and the University of Virginia is available to all institutions of higher education in Virginia. He also stated that the Southside University initiative has not yet been approved.

Department of Education

Dr. Elliott apprised the advisory board of the following:

- Purpose, meeting dates, and times of the Board of Education's special committee to study teacher licensure assessments;

- Possible action to be taken by Board of Education at its March 23, 2005, meeting regarding ABTEL's recommendation to adjust Praxis I composite scores;
- School Leaders Task Force Update;
- School Leadership Preparation Development Competitive grant proposals for 2005; and
- The third annual Great Virginia Teach-In to be held in March of 2007.

Other Reports/Comments:

Dr. Elliott indicated that Dr. Ron Diss would like ABTEL to think about what can be done to honor the memory of Mary Bicouvaris, Virginia's first National Teacher of the Year. This topic will be discussed at the next ABTEL meeting.

Dr. Elliott thanked ABTEL members who served as Teach-In ambassadors, as well as those who participated in the Second Great Virginia Teach-in.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.