

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

MINUTES

(Note: The January 25, 2016, meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and rescheduled on February 29, 2016.)

Meeting Date and Location:

February 29, 2016
The Westin Richmond Hotel
6631 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

ABTEL Members Present:

Mr. Allen Lee Bierlair
Mrs. Bonnie Bowen
Mrs. Kathy Burcher
Dr. Holly Gould
Ms. Amy Hartswick
Dr. Brian Matney

Ms. Tracey Mercier
Mr. Brian McGovern
Mrs. Nancy Moga
Dr. Diane Simon
Ms. Cheryl Sprouse
Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt

Ms. Charletta Williams
Mr. Vern Williams
Dr. Sherry Wilson
Dr. Phillip Wishon
Mrs. Ruth Wallace

ABTEL Members Absent:

Dr. Rebecca Gates
Mr. Jeff Pennington
Ms. Kate Sydney
Ms. Jane Watkins

Board of Education Liaison:

Ms. Elizabeth Lodal

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Monica Osei
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Dr. Daniel C. Lewis (absent)
Virginia Community College System

Mrs. Patty S. Pitts
Virginia Department of Education

Department of Education Staff:

Dr. Kendra Crump
Dr. Joan B. Johnson

Guests:

Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver, Educational Consultant
Dr. Robert N. Corley, III, Virginia State University
Dr. Patricia R. Aldridge, Virginia State University

Guests (continued):

Ms. Sandra Barnstead, Virginia Education Association
Dr. Patricia Abrams, Office of Special Education, Virginia Department of Education
Mr. Paul Joseph, Educational Consulting Services
Mr. Paul Mulcamy, University of Phoenix, College of Education
Mr. Donald Williams, Phoebus High School
Mr. Jim Batterson, Former Senior Advisor to the Commonwealth for STEM Initiatives
Dr. Antoinette Rogers, Virginia Education Association

NEW-MEMBER ORIENTATION

8:30 a.m.

Patty Pitts, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, Department of Education, conducted a new-member orientation.

FULL ADVISORY BOARD

9:00 a.m.

• **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Nancy Moga, Vice Chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

• **Introduction of New and Returning ABTEL Members**

New and returning ABTEL members introduced themselves to the Advisory Board. The new ABTEL members are Tracey Mercier, Stonewall Jackson Elementary, Bristol City Public Schools; Charletta Williams, Larymore Elementary School, Norfolk Public Schools; Mr. Brian James McGovern, Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center, Gloucester Public Schools; and Amy Hartswick, Centra Health Rivermont Schools.

• **Introduction Ex Officio Members and Department Personnel to ABTEL**

The Board of Education liaison, ex officio members, and Virginia Department of Education staff members introduced themselves.

[Brian Matney arrived and assumed his role as chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.]

- **Introduction of the Board of Education Liaison to ABTEL**

Ms. Elizabeth Lodal was welcomed and introduced as the new Board of Education liaison to the Advisory Board.

- **Introduction of Guests**

Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Bonnie Bowen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Nancy Moga seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Holly Gould made a motion to approve the disseminated minutes of the November 16, 2015, Advisory Board meeting. Bonnie Bowen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Public Comment**

The following individuals spoke during the public comment. Public comments were related to the proposed engineering endorsement in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*.

Jim Batterson
Don Williams

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Patty Pitts reported that on November 19, 2015, the Board of Education approved the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's recommendation to grant approval to add new education (endorsement) programs at Bluefield College, Emory and Henry College, James Madison University, Mary Baldwin College, and Virginia Wesleyan College.

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 1:

- **Review and Approval of a Recommendation to Accredite the Teacher Education Program at Lynchburg College through a process Approved by the Board of Education**

Dr. Joan Johnson, director of teacher education, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, Virginia Department of Education, presented an overview of the accreditation process approved by the Board of Education and a summary of the results of the *Professional Education Program Review Team Report of Findings* for Lynchburg College. Dr. Johnson introduced Dr. Roger Jones, dean of the School of Education, Leadership Studies, and Counseling, at Lynchburg College, who attended the Advisory Board meeting.

Lynchburg College requested accreditation through the Board of Education-approved process. The original on-site visit to review the program was conducted on October 26-30, 2013. The overall recommendation of the on-site review team in 2013 was that the professional education program be “accredited with stipulations.” The team made this recommendation based on the information in the 2013 *Institutional Report* and the evidence available during the October 26-30, 2013, on-site visit. The full 2013 Institutional Report and supporting documents leading to the follow-up visit can be found in the June 26, 2014, Board of Education agenda (http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2014/06_jun/agenda_items/item_d.pdf).

On April 28, 2014, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) reviewed the 2013 *Professional Education Program Review Team Report of Findings* and *Lynchburg College’s Response*. The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommended to the Board of Education that the Lynchburg College professional education program be “accredited with stipulations.”

At the May 22, 2014, Board of Education meeting, the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure was presented. During the discussion, Board members requested that Lynchburg College submit a plan outlining how the College would address the weaknesses cited in the on-site review team’s report.

On June 26, 2014, the Board of Education approved the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s recommendation to accept the review team’s recommendation that the professional education program at Lynchburg College be “accredited with stipulations.” This approval was contingent on the status report due by September 30, 2014, updating the progress of correcting the weaknesses. The professional education program met the standards minimally, but significant weaknesses were identified. Within a two-year period, the professional education program must fully meet standards as set forth in section 8VAC20-542-60 of the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*.

In response to the Board of Education's request, Lynchburg College submitted a status report on September 30, 2014, providing specific actions and plans proposed to address the weaknesses. On April 21, 2015, a final *Follow-Up Institutional Report* was sent by former Dean Stennette to the Director of Teacher Education, Dr. Joan Johnson, summarizing program improvements implemented to address the deficiencies. Upon receipt of the report and review by Dr. Johnson, a follow-up on-site campus review visit was scheduled on April 29-30, 2015.

Following setting the date for the monitoring visit, Dr. Stennette announced her retirement, and the College Board approved the appointment of Dr. Roger Jones as the new college Dean. As a result of this change in program leadership and reorganization of unit structure, two monitoring visits were held. The first review visit was held on April 29-30, 2015, to review the extent to which the weaknesses had been addressed, and the second review was held on October 30, 2015, to evaluate the implementation of proposed plans by the new department administration to correct the cited weaknesses.

The overall recommendation of the follow-up review team was that the professional education program be "accredited." The team made this recommendation based on the information available in the 2013 and 2015 *Institutional Reports* and the evidence available during both on-site visits in April and October 2015. Specific details for each standard are identified in the *2015 Professional Education Program Follow-Up Monitoring Review Team Report of Findings*.

Bonnie Bowen made the motion that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend to the Board of Education that the Lynchburg College professional education program be "accredited." Cheryl Sprouse seconded the motion. Dr. Holly Gould recused herself. The motion passed with a 17-0 vote, with one abstention.

Agenda Items 2 and 3

Patty Pitts shared with the Advisory Board that Agenda Items 2 and 3 include the review of public comments and discussion of the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* and the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*. Revisions in one set of proposed regulations may require changes in the other set of regulations. Advisory Board members will receive the documents during the March 21, 2016, meeting to review prior to submission to the Board of Education.

- **Agenda Item 2: Final Review of Public Comments and Approval of a Recommendation to the Board of Education for Comprehensive Revisions to the Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia.**

On June 27, 2013, the Board of Education approved proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*. Due to the significant number of revisions, the Board recommended repealing the current regulations (8VAC20-542) and promulgating new, revised regulations (8VAC20-543).

The proposed regulations were published in the Virginia Register of Regulations, VOL. 31, ISS. 26, on August 24, 2015. An online comment period was open on the Virginia Register's Town Hall. Public comments were accepted through Saturday, October 31, 2015. A public hearing on the proposed regulations was held Thursday, October 22, 2015, in the 22nd floor Jefferson Meeting Room, James Monroe Building (101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219). On November 16, 2015, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure received for first review and discussion public comments on the proposed *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia*.

Patty Pitts made a presentation on the proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* and related public comments. Mrs. Pitts highlighted major revisions within the document, followed by a detailed review of each code section.

In addition to technical edits, highlighted revisions in the document since the regulations were published include the following:

- Require field experiences for all programs;
 - Change the professional studies requirement of “The Teaching Profession” to “Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession;”
 - Clarify that professional studies requirements are required for approved teacher preparation programs (undergraduate and graduate);
 - Clarify the criteria for the 80 percent pass rates for biennial program approval;
 - Incorporate a corrective action plan process for programs not meeting the 80 percent biennial program approval requirement;
 - Modify the reporting requirements for the Annual Report Card;
 - Eliminate the statement in Section 8VAC20-543-80 that would have required candidates seeking an endorsement in special education general curriculum K-12 to have an area of concentration;
 - Update competencies to align with the Standards of Learning, to comport with current best practice, or to clarify the requirement;
 - Clarify the experience requirement for the administration and supervision, the reading specialist, and school counselor endorsements;
 - Clarify the graduate degree requirement for the school social worker endorsement; and
 - Offer two mathematics specialist endorsements – mathematics specialist for elementary education and mathematics specialist for elementary and middle education.
- **Agenda Item 3: Final Review of Public Comments and Approval of a Recommendation to the Board of Education for Comprehensive Revisions to the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel**

On June 27, 2013, the Board of Education approved proposed revisions to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*. Due to the significant number of revisions, the Board recommended repealing the current regulations (8VAC20-22) and promulgating new, revised regulations (8VAC20-23).

The proposed regulations were published in the Virginia Register of Regulations VOL. 32, ISS.1, on September 7, 2015. An online comment period was opened on the Virginia Register's Town Hall. Public comments were accepted through Friday, November 6, 2015.

A public hearing on the proposed regulations was held on Thursday, October 22, 2015, in the 22nd floor Jefferson Meeting Room, James Monroe Building (101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219). Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure members received a written summary of all comments received. On November 16, 2015, the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure received for first review and discussion public comments on the proposed *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*.

Patty Pitts made a presentation on the proposed revisions to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and related public comments. Mrs. Pitts highlighted major revisions within the document, followed by a detailed review of each code section.

In addition to technical edits, highlighted revisions in the document since the regulations were published include the following

- Clarify that individuals who have earned a degree from an institution in another country must hold the equivalent of a regionally accredited college or university degree in the United States, as verified by a Department of Education approved agency;
- Remove the requirement to issue a provisional license for two years to take assessments before receiving the third year of the provisional license;
- Change from five years to three years the full-time work experience required for the career switcher program and the experiential route to licensure;
- Clarify that career switcher programs must be certified every seven years;
- Change the professional studies requirement of “The Teaching Profession” to “Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession;”
- Remove the proposed text to require nine semester hours (instead of three) for individuals not licensed to receive a provisional (special education) license;
- Add a requirement, “When provided by the state, individual must complete professional development in knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed in working with challenged populations and complete other professional development activities prescribed by the Board of Education;”
- Clarify that an endorsement in engineering requires a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
- Clarify the graduate degree requirement for the school social worker endorsement;
- Offer two mathematics specialist endorsements – mathematics specialist for elementary education and mathematics specialist for elementary and middle education;
- Clarify that the experience requirement in a senior leadership position for Option IV of the division superintendent license must be three successful years; and
- Revise Part VII of the regulations [Due to the complexity of these processes, ABTEL members recommended that any revisions should be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office.]

MOTIONS

The Advisory Board members made the following motions regarding the revision in the regulations:

Diane Simon made a motion to recommend to the Board of Education that the professional studies requirement of “The Teaching Profession” be amended to “Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession” throughout both sets of regulations. Phillip Wishon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Phillip Wishon made a motion to recommend to the Board of Education that the proposed endorsement in Engineering be approved for both regulations. Vern Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Allen Bierlair made a motion that the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommend that the Board of Education accept the proposed revisions and staff’s technical revisions to the *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* and the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*. Ruth Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [Note: The regulations will be submitted to ABTEL members for a second review on March 21, 2016.]

LIAISON REPORTS

- **State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)**

Due to a commitment, Dr. Osei had to leave the meeting; however, she requested that Dr. Joan Johnson read the update from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia:

SCHEV continued work on the statewide strategic plan, referred to as the Virginia Plan for Higher Education. The objective is to be the best education state by 2030 in credential attainment. It recognizes the value of both degrees and other workforce credentials, including industry certifications and state licenses. One area of focus in the Virginia Plan related to K-12 is an initiative to coordinate the development and implementation of programs that align resources from PK-12, colleges, universities and other public sources to ensure affordable, efficient, and effective pathways for students in all parts of the state. SCHEV and its higher education partners will be working with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and other K-12 stakeholders to identify opportunities to support this initiative. To learn more about the Virginia Plan, visit SCHEV’s website.

SCHEV plans to host a summit on access and student success in higher education on June 8, 2016. K-12 partners, including VDOE; Dr. Pam Moran, Albemarle County Superintendent, SCHEV Council member, and the president of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents; and the Virginia College Access Network are participating in the planning committee. More details will be available on the SCHEV web site in the coming months.

Grants

The GEARUP grant is in its second year in 15 school divisions. The cohort is now in the eighth grade. Services continue to include tutors, mentors, college visits, and other activities to prepare students for high school and for postsecondary education. The summer academy which serves to help prepare students for the transition to high school will be hosted this year by the University of Virginia. The camps will close with a session for parents.

A follow-up study to the Access study released in 2010 is underway. An exploratory report was released in December 2015. A listing of high-risk districts will be available this spring. A final comprehensive report including an inventory of access resources and providers will be released by the end of the year.

Financial Aid

Two General Assembly bills are being considered that would utilize financial aid as a means to incentivize progression and on-time completion.

The General Assembly is considering a significant increase in need-based assistance -- \$24 million each of the next two years resulting in over a \$165 million base.

- **Virginia Department of Education**

Patty Pitts thanked all new members, as well as the Board Liaison, Elizabeth Lodal for serving on the Advisory Board.

- **Virginia Community College System (VCCS)**

No report was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure meeting was adjourned.