

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted
(VACEG)
Friday, December 11**

Members Present:

Patty Griffin, Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey, Valerie Tuck, Sandra Cole, Laura Kelly, Beth Anderson, Robert Hundley, Kimberly Waite, Melanie Daniel, Teresa Ellison, Sarah Haywood, Melissa Powers, Janice Robertson, George Fohl, Elizabeth Schupp, Cheryl McCullough, Donna Poland

10 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Minutes by Teresa Ellison and Kimberly Waite

10:15 a.m. Department of Education Report

Donna reported that she attended NAGC and was excited about the new executive director of NAGC.

Donna shared the news about the new legislation, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and that gifted students/gifted education were stated in the legislation. Both nationally and state-wide, 'gifted students' as a subgroup will appear on the state report cards (by 2017). Academic growth was also discussed in ESSA. Questions are circling about the Title 1 and Title 2 funds as mentioned in ESSA. Donna will share more information as she learns more about possible options.

A Nation Empowered has been published as a follow up on *A Nation Deceived*. This can be purchased in hardcopy or ebook from the website (http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Nation_Empowered/Order/Default.aspx).

Donna suggested VAG or VACEG may want to consider something in writing about acceleration as a state document to guide school systems.

Donna shared another book she enjoyed *The Appalachian Divergent* that was produced by the students at A. Linwood Holton Governor's School.

Academic Year Governor's School Funding: The initial report by the Secretary of Education was presented (with a minor revision that followed) to the Senate Finance Committee. Further discussions brought forward two funding options to consider. The Governor's budget comes out on December 17th. We will learn then whether it is in the Governor's budget. Then if it is in the budget, it will need to go through the General Assembly for a final approval.

Summer Regional Governor's School for Career and Technical Advancement (Regions I & III): A model proposal and criteria were approved by the Board of

Education (BOE). This model provides an idea of how a summer regional GS program may look for Career & Technical Aptitude gifted students – this approval did not fund or approve the program – just the model of a program. The next step will be to have the General Assembly to get the actual program approved for this summer. Business community is very supportive of the program. They are using a problem-based, project-based learning scenario. Donna serves on a team that will meet on December 15th to start the problem/project development process. The program plans to serve 40 students for the first year and 80 the second year. Based on the success and funding, it could be replicated around the state.

Teacher Licensure Regulations - Gifted Education Endorsement/Competencies: VACEG and VAG submitted comments to Town Hall during the open comment timeframe to recommend specific gifted education courses towards endorsement to meet various gifted education competencies. George Fohl asked about the time frame for these regulations to be phased in. Donna said the Department usually gives a window of time for school systems or teachers to be compliant with the changes to Regulations. Donna will update us once she learns more about the timeline for these regulations to become effective.

11:15 a.m. Charge from the Board of Education

Review of Data – Select School Divisions for Exploration

Donna explained the importance of comparing the Total Population and the Total Gifted Population percentages. A suggestion to use Donna Ford's Equity index based on U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights' 20% equity threshold rule to determine a reasonable goal was discussed.

VACEG members brainstormed outcomes and document components.

Suggestions for Group Work to move forward with our charge:

- Document Review (Local Plan, Acceleration Plan, PD Plan)
- Questions for Administrators
- Pre-Visit Questionnaire
- Data

Members divided into 4 groups as noted above. Eventually, both subgroups working on questionnaires merged together.

12:00 p.m. Working Lunch in Sub-committees: discussion of topic-specific breakdown

2 p.m. Sub-Committee Reports

Donna led a discussion about the need for a creation of a letter to school

divisions asking if they would share information on their process of finding underrepresented groups of gifted learners.

Timeline for data gathering:

- **Beginning of January** - Superintendent email if Dr. Staples agrees.
- **January** – George Fohl volunteered to do the survey in Google Docs; sent to coordinators
- **Beginning of February** - Follow Up and expected information returned. Before our February meeting, Donna suggested that as we read articles, summarize major points, pull out quotes, and cite sources; then send to Donna for possible inclusion in our final document.

Donna acknowledged that Mr. Ravi Myneni sent letter to committee on transitional strategies for late entrants into gifted programs.

2:30 p.m. Reports from Members/Representative Groups Public Comment

Patty Griffin, Henrico County

- Implementing Project M3 units mandated that each gifted classroom (1 unit per year); better growth measures for gifted learners

Beth Anderson, Prince George (no comment)

Sarah Haywood, York County

- Working on our Standard Operating Procedures for acceleration
- Excited to send many teachers to NAGC and VAG for professional development

Valerie Tuck, Norfolk

- Completed Gifted Services Handbook for Parents, Teachers
- Sent 12 teachers to VAG; 2 people to NAGC
- Started teachers, parents and students with Habits of Mind; looking for a uniform service for gifted learners; also using Project M2 and M3

Melissa Powers, Brunswick County

- 17 staff members attended VAG
- Started Early Participation Program (EPP) for College Board Suite of Assessments (grades 8-11); did PSAT 8/9 with all 8th and 9th grade students and PSAT/NMSQT with all 10th and 11th grade students (practice questions and results link to Kahn Academy)
- College Board professional development in December with counselors and administrators
- Applied for and accepted for AP Capstone Program at 3 high schools; programs will begin 2016-2017 school year.

Elizabeth Schupp, Amherst County

- Started pull-out services for 9th to 12th grade (i.e. Math competitions, STEM activities, working on Governor's School applications); twice a month
- Parent advisory committee focus is on socio-emotional needs; coordinating older students with younger students centered around STEM activities

Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey, Virginia Beach

- 5 Year Plan was just approved which aligns very closely to Superintendent's Plan
- Screened students earlier this year
- 18 teachers to VAG and 4 to NAGC
- Focus is on identification of underrepresented populations
- PD upcoming on personalized learning and cultural responsiveness

George Fohl, Chesterfield County

- Offering tuition reimbursement for gifted endorsement; 16 teachers are part of a cohort currently
- Gifted services has organized professional development sessions that have gone very well
- Teachers and administrators were excited after attending VAG conference
- One elementary school is starting a STEAM enrichment program after school

Jan Robertson, (retired) Amelia County

- New director of instruction in May; review of Local Plan
- Representatives attended the Virginia Consortium and in the fall the school counselors educated their faculties about characteristics of giftedness and the identification/referral process; focusing on early identification to find underrepresented groups and thinking about including more flexibility in identification based on available data

Kim Waite, Middlesex County

- Piloting Project M2 in K-2; Project M3 with grade 5
- Acceleration is a major topic of discussion
- Region III coordinators are discussing different options for the Stanford

Cheryl McCullough, Arlington

- Differentiated Progress Reports for K - 5 sent home with each report card to share progress of services to parents
- Project M3 teacher teams created alignments to math program of studies to support implementation for extensions and compacted curriculum
- 'Document Based Questions' training held for 6-12 teachers and resource

teachers in collaboration with the social studies office

Melanie Daniels, Stafford County

- 17 staff members attended VAG
- Started Early Participation Program (EPP) for college board (grades 8-11); did PSAT 8 with 8th graders this year (link to Kahn Academy);
- College Board professional development in December
- Applied for and accepted for AP Capstone Program, beginning this next school year

Donna Poland

Jennifer Sublet-Williamson resigned from this committee. We appreciate her service and contributions.

Donna discussed the formation of a subcommittee to work with her in developing graphs and charts to display available data regarding gifted students and programs. This will also occur for Academic Year Governor's Schools. It will probably be a September before information is available.

Motion to Adjournment was made by Jan Robertson; Second by Melissa Powers.

Adjournment

3 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

Next meeting dates:

- **Friday, Feb. 19, 2016**
- **Friday, April 22, 2016**

Location: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School