

# Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

April 28, 2017

## Members Present

Shawanna Poarch, Melanie Daniel, Cheryl McCullough, Valerie Tuck, Sarah Haywood, Dorn Wilkins-McCorey, Teresa Ellison, Laura Kelly, Janice Robertson, Sandra Cole, Melissa Powers, Beth Andersen, George Fohl, Patty Griffin, Donna Poland, Kim Waite, Dara Hall

## Welcome and Introductions

- Patty Griffin called the meeting to order
- Members approved agenda – approval was unanimous
- Officer Nominations for 2017-2018
  - Patty Griffin – Chair
  - George Fohl – Vice Chair
  - Sarah Haywood – Secretary

## Department of Education Report from Donna Poland

- VACEG Updates
  - Thank you to members rotating off - Kevin Kendall, Cheryl McCullough, Beth Andersen
  - Budget cuts possible next year for this committee's funding; we will know in July or August
- Academic Year Governor's School
  - Funding
    - Funding formula for GS will not be under review; will be finalized before December
    - It is currently what it has been in the last year
    - Some extra funds may go to full time schools to fund additional responsibilities
  - AYGS Consortium is hosting a conference for teachers on October 20-21, 2017 at Shenandoah Governor's School
    - Half day Friday, all day Saturday.
    - Most sessions geared towards the sciences, some for arts, some general/critical thinking/interdisciplinary, etc.
    - Speakers from HHMI (Howard Hughes Medical Institute)
    - Rena Subotnik and David Daniels will be keynote speakers
  - Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology revealed newly remodeled school
    - Research presentations coming up
    - Outstanding science lab facilities
    - Summer, week-long courses are starting in July - strictly nonprofit; cost around \$100-\$200 to cover supplies and materials that they use in the labs. Geared toward gifted high school students.
- State's Stance on Algebra I Readiness
  - Approved by Board: no longer will it say that students who complete math 7 SOLs are ready for Algebra I. Instead, it will say that students who cover all K-8 math SOLs are ready for Algebra I.
  - The reason behind the change is that math data is showing a trend that poor grades in high mathematics courses is affected by weak Algebra I foundation.
  - Summer Residential Governor's School
    - Status reports - postal error prevented these going out
    - Over 100 outstanding invitations for students still need a response

- Have we thought about doing it electronically?
- Summer Regional Governor's School
  - Hanover Regional Governor's School in Career and Technical Education
    - Placed into budget as regional program
    - Now will be funded every year like all other programs
    - Increased tuition by \$500 after letters went out
  - Roanoke Area – planning grant for Career and Technical GS; looking for a STEM academy and gearing it towards trade areas
- Special Education Department
  - Plans to host a conference twice in different locations; same content at both locations
  - Location one: June 22 at Hotel Roanoke
  - Location two: July 10 – Four Points Sheraton in Richmond
  - Dr. Claire Hughes-Lynch - keynote
  - Will be free for participants – filling up fast
- NAGC
  - Poland participated in webinar with state directors and NAGC president to explore how state directors can help roll out things regarding gifted education talent development.
    - Discussed 'what does it mean to have a program of that nature'.
    - Explored issues with talent development that are causing a divide in the field of gifted
    - How can we bring everyone together on the same table?
  - NAGC will be in Charlotte this year
- VAG Report
  - Fall Conference in Norfolk, VA this year
    - October 22-24, 2017
    - Dr. Richard Cash will be keynote
  - PBL seminar in April was a success and people want follow-ups
    - Three-hour session possible
  - Currently collaborating to compose an acceleration piece to make a recommendation once regulations are opened again for review.

### **Charge from the Board of Education: Identification Practices**

- Patty Griffin reviewed charge
- Broke into groups and revised introduction, conclusion, and sections of draft document
- Beth Andersen and Kim Waite will conduct the final proofreading of the document once all proposed changes have been made to the document.

### **Discussion of Potential Topics for the Next Charge from the Board of Education**

- PROPOSAL ONE: Revisions to the State Gifted Education Report
  - Including other populations including low SES, ELL, and twice exceptional students
  - Providing longitudinal data over three and five years to provide insight into trends
  - Furnishing definitions to terms to ensure accurate data
  - Explore answers to possible questions
    - How can we construct this report to make it more useful to school divisions?
    - How can we make this report so that it could inform best practices?
    - How can it be designed to provide information that is more user-friendly to the public?

- How could we make this into something that would be more useful at the state level?
  - How can we revise this report to align with other reports that divisions need to generate?
- PROPOSAL TWO: Public Service Announcement for Gifted Education
  - Socio-emotional needs of identified gifted students
  - Use NAGC Slogan: See me. Understand me. Teach me. Challenge me.
  - Can be recorded at Henrico
  - Prominent people from Virginia can speak, do montage

## Reports from Members/Representative Groups

- Shawanna Poarch: Pass
- Melanie Daniel: Recently had Nathan Levy (Stories with Holes) visit April 11-13; served as speaker for two-day workshop with GRTs and spoke at a parent session. Now working on the gifted plan that will be presented in a couple weeks. Six teams going to Destination Imagination in TN in May.
- Valerie Tuck: Thanked Donna for sending template for revising template. CogAT first grade online screener experienced a few problems the implementation due to network issues and training material not matching what actually occurs. Students did excellent job using desktops, laptops, iPads. Pleased with W&M partner and their summer enrichment program for low SES students. It is a residential STEM camp that is residential and includes sports and arts, field trips, and a career piece. Awarded 17 spots for rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders; Will have Young Scholars middle school 6-8 program, one campus this summer.
- Sarah Haywood: Gifted plan is finished and is going to board; in the midst of data reporting. Consortium will be Friday, September 15 at the Charlottesville Omni. It will include breakout sessions and John Almarode as the keynote. Eventbrite will be used for registration, so credit cards will be accepted.
- Dorn Wilkins-McCorey: Old Donation School opened April 3. It is a \$64 million building for gifted students in grades 2-8. Online applications for referrals went extremely well this year thanks to the tech guys. SAPLINGS - Title One kindergarteners and their parents went to Francis Land House and it was amazing.
- Dara Hall: Pass
- Teresa Ellison: pass
- Laura Kelly: Processing identification of second grader; Took 80 fourth and fifth grade students on overnight trip. Visited Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) outside Annapolis, Naval Academy, and Hazy Center in Chantilly. Did many activities and labs. Third grade did overnight in Richmond and explored the capital.
- Jan Robertson: Continuing to work part time as psychologist in Lunenburg and Amelia County; shared a case study on twice exceptional student whose parent never considered giftedness until tested.
- Sandra Cole: Having a reception for Governor's School applicants soon. Invited former students to help relieve anxiety; in June, offering "Speaking for the Gifted" program and going to do things differently; going to conduct gifted workshops and targeting them for teachers of different grade levels. The speakers will include an educational liaison from NASA, people from UVA astronomy department.
- Melissa Powers: Hosted a gifted education night for elementary parents and students. Students received recognition, fifth grade students received lapel pin. Pictures from the year and from the past were used in a tribute to fifth graders; seven will be attending Meherrin Summer Regional Governor's School. Students will be coming to Richmond to see Beauty and the Beast, and gifted plan is approved by school board.
- Beth Andersen: Prince George has been preparing plan for the school board. Thanked committee and expressed gratitude for six years of work on the committee.
- George Fohl: Chesterfield County recently conducted focus group days to solicit feedback from parents, students, teachers, and administrators. They focused on the areas of identification, delivery of services, curriculum, and professional development; used an agile model (innovative form of working in a group that speeds up the developmental process, increases the products created, and offers several opportunities to revise as you go that is a format commonly used in the tech world in writing code and

software creation). It uses small groups are known as “scrum” groups. Recommendations were then refined into a five-year timeline and submitted to the school board for review.

- Patty Griffin: Gifted middle school will be opening as a school-within-a-school at Wilder Middle School in 2018. Will be spending this coming year working on curriculum and providing PD. Entered in with VCU and VUU for opportunities, and visiting Old Donation School in Virginia Beach for ideas. Open, innovative concepts, film classes, innovation periods, and non-traditional setting is the goal.
- Kim Waite: Richmond Montessori School has received a grant through a community partnership to develop inquiry-based learning; in ground-breaking stage now.

### **Public Comment**

- There were no public comments.

### **Final Thoughts**

- Tentative meeting dates
  - September 22, 2017
  - December 1, 2017
  - February 9, 2018
  - April 20, 2018

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM
- Executive Committee Meeting with 2017-2018 officers followed