

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

March 3, 2017

Members Present

Shawanna Poarch, William Ellis, Valerie Tuck, Sarah Haywood, Dorn Wilkins-McCorey, Laura Kelly, Robert Hundley, Rebecca Johnson, Beth Andersen, George Fohl, Patty Griffin, Sandra Cole, Melanie Daniel, Donna Poland, Janice Robertson, Teresa Ellison, Kevin Kendall

Welcome and Introductions

- Patty Griffin called the meeting to order
- Members approved agenda – approval was unanimous

Department of Education Report from Donna Poland

- VACEG Updates
 - Openings for VACEG positions will be announced soon
 - Looking for good geographic representation from across the state
 - Budget for VACEG is \$5000 and there has been talk that it could be cut further
- Academic Year Governor's School Funding
 - Funding formula in governor's budget is the same as last year with the addition of a 2% teacher raise starting in February 2018
 - Possible new funding formula tied to personnel/positions may end up in 2019 FY Budget
 - HB 1500 - wanted another study, but did not go through
- Summer Residential Governor's School in Entrepreneurship
 - Design of program and budget has already been done and was waiting university partnership and funding
 - Planning budget this coming year of \$32,000 and an operational budget the following year proposed but did not pass General Assembly
 - May get put back into budget but will not know until April 5.
- 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
- Teacher Licensure Requirements - continuing to wait for Government sign-offs
- School Website Documents
 - Every document must be 'accessible' for the blind, including local plan.
 - Document reader reads code behind document. Everything has a code that goes behind it.
 - Possible charge next year: all documents may need to be reviewed in light of this and any needed revision for clarification.
- Special Education Department
 - Plans to host a conference on twice exceptional learners in two different locations; same content at both locations
 - Location one: June 22 at Hotel Roanoke
 - Location two: July 10 - location TBD in Richmond
 - Open to division gifted coordinators and special education coordinators
 - Will be free for participants
 - Some proposed topics:
 - What are these disabilities and how do they manifest themselves in gifted students?

- What issues does that raise in providing gifted services?
 - Assistive technologies
 - Identification issues - covering up disabilities and not taking services, parents who do not want special education services, declining services because of advanced classes
- Format will consist of a keynote speaker and breakout sessions and panels
- Department is also planning a full day workshop on twice exceptional students for new gifted education coordinators in the fall
- Region III has great working relationship with Rappahannock Community College and Donna Poland will do a workshop for teachers there
- Poland will be putting in a proposal to speak at the principal leadership conference in June
- VAG
 - Holding a spring event on April 3 on Project-Based Learning
 - Lynchburg, VA
 - Only 100 spots
 - Unsure if VAG is going to do a seminar in September, as NAGC is in Charlotte, NC this year
- Rescheduling issues with Summer Residential Governor's Schools adjudication at CNU on January 7
 - Discussed complications
 - Visiting different ways to possibly conduct adjudications in the future

Charge from the Board of Education: Identification Practices

- Patty Griffin reviewed charge
- Broke into groups and revised sections of draft document
- Final document will be submitted two months prior to the Board meeting. Submitted in May to go through DOE and then to the BOE in July.
- Patty Griffin suggested another possible charge for next year: updating the state report

Reports from Members/Representative Groups

- Sandra Cole: Region VII is planning summer institute for teachers in southwest Virginia. Reception for students going to Governor's School is being planned.
- Patty Griffin: Henrico County is doing some pretty exciting things: 1.) 1600 students participated this year in the You Be The Chemist competition in grades 6-8 through the MathScience Innovation Center, with 60 students moving on to regional competition. The top 8 finalists in region came from Henrico and last year fifth grade won states. 2.) Gifted class at Tuckahoe MS won a Verizon app competition with one called "Cityscape." School presented with \$5000 check and a tablet. 3.) Maggie Walker Governor's School applications being processed. 4.) Final stages of planning Young Scholars gifted student academy at the middle school level for 2018. It will take 100 students the first year for a total of 300 students in the program. Doing visitations to make an exciting and engaging program. The program will be housed at Wilder MS.
- Janice Robertson: Amelia County is seeking ways to identify more students from underrepresented populations and presently looking at data and tweaking the identification process. Looking forward to the final VACEG document to get more ideas to expand criteria.
- George Fohl: Superintendent and the Board have requested recommendations based on best practices in the following four areas of gifted education: identification of gifted students (including underrepresented populations), delivery of gifted services, curriculum used to educate gifted students, and professional

development for teachers; two day-long focus group sessions will occur in March that will include teachers, principals, counselors, parents, central office staff, and university faculty.

- Beth Andersen: pass
- Rebecca Johnson: Accomack County is working on local plan with a focus on a visual arts program; focus groups with arts teachers are being conducted to refine services.
- Kevin Kendall: traditionally Winchester has had difficulty filling Governor's School spots, but this year there were enough applicants to fill spots. Eighth graders and seventh graders will come over to visit the "Science of Superheroes" at the school. Winchester is also hosting the Northern VA gifted coordinator meeting on March 31, 2017.
- Teresa Ellison: Regional Governor's School recruiting is going well
- Laura Kelly: pass
- Dorn Wilkins-McCorey: 1.) Old Donation School's new building opens April 3. 2.) Referral applications now online. 3.) Local plan came back from technical review with great feedback.
- Sarah Haywood: The division got the technical review back and the feedback was really good. Also we in the middle of developing a new gifted plan with a proposed completion date in April – school board approval to follow. Changed up a traditional parent night and hosted a parent workshop instead of hosting a speaker. It was successful and well-attended by parents.
- Valerie Tuck: Implemented online testing for CogAT with first grade students. Principal and AP receive scores but central office would send out scores to parents and teachers. This is to ensure parents also received information on how to interpret scores. GRTs at HS level may get cut due to budget.
- Melanie Daniel: 1.) 8 MS just attended W&M model UN. 2.) Just collected Commonwealth Governor's School applications. 3.) Destination Imagination in NoVA this weekend. 4.) After technical review of gifted plan, did online summary and shared with principals to get feedback. 5.) 500 teachers will be brought together at end of school year for Teaching & Learning Summit. 6.) Hosted a College Board workshop for administrators and counselors. 7.) Upcoming event: "Agent of Change Day" to highlight schools and community efforts for change and also conduct the Mission Impossible engineering challenge.
- William Ellis: pass
- Shawanna Poarch: pass
- Donna Poland: Governor has appointed two new members to State Board of Education: Anne B. Holton and Dr. Jamelle Wilson

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Final Thoughts

- Next Meeting 4/28 @ 10 AM

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM
- Executive Committee meeting followed