

Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted

December 1, 2017

Members Present

Patty Griffin, George Fohl, Sarah Haywood, Dorn Wilkins-McCorey, Janice Robertson, Rebecca Johnson, Kirsten Maloney, Valerie Tuck, Kim Waite, Laura Kelly, Dara Hall, William Ellis, Mandy Barrett, Sandra Cole, Becky Dangerfield, and Donna Poland

Welcome and Introductions

- Patty Griffin called the meeting to order and welcomed two visitors: Dr. Robert Lowerre, Maggie Walker Governor's School Director and Ms. Wendy DeGroat, Maggie Walker Governor's School librarian and representative for the Maggie Walker Education Association
- Members approved agenda, the approval was unanimous

Department of Education Report from Dr. Donna Poland

- General Updates
 - Dr. Poland shared the approved charge from the Board of Education: *"The VACEG shall advise the Board of Education with respect to policies that promote equitable access to effective gifted programming. The VACEG shall recommend guidelines for school divisions to measure gifted student outcomes across subgroups over time, improve teacher professional development, and facilitate communication with the broader community."*
 - Dr. Poland recently attended a meeting of The Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted. This two-day professional meeting was both powerful and positive as gifted education was discussed among the state directors.
 - The recent NAGC convention was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was a great experience for all who attended.
 - VAG recently held its annual conference in Norfolk. The group currently has an Acting Executive Director and is continuing conversations about the structure of that position.
- Academic Year Governor's Schools
 - Under the current Appropriation Act, changes are scheduled to be made to the AYGS funding formula because additional state funding (\$50/student/average credit hour) for the current biennium will expire. AYGS Directors asked to maintain this funding for an additional year. Dr. Poland shared that AYGS programs were created to receive additional funding and not be "fully funded" by the state, and that they already receive more funding when compared to other regional programs (such as career and technical programs).
- Summer Regional Governor's Schools
 - Tuition rates have increased, and school divisions will pay more although the program costs will vary. There hasn't been an increase in tuition costs for most programs in almost 11 years.
 - The RFP process is currently underway for the location of SRGS for Mathematics, Science, and Technology, which is currently held at Lynchburg College. Private colleges and universities host programs for a five-year time period (as one-year renewals), then the program must go out on an RFP.

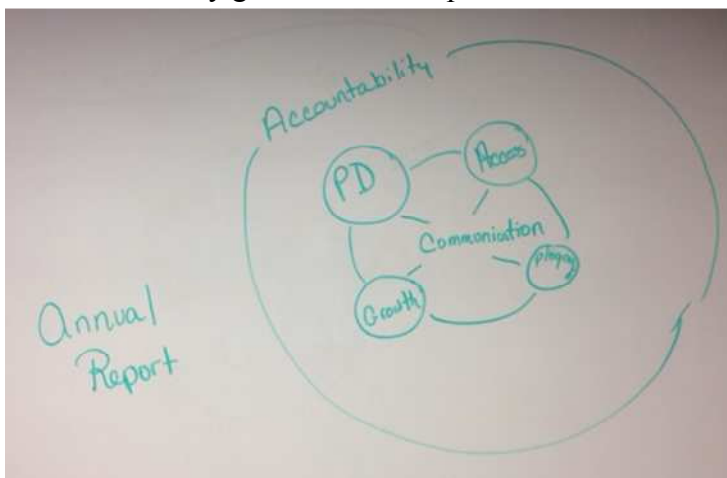
Charge from the Board of Education:

- Dr. Poland shared information from multiple sources to help committee members enlarge their perspectives and look at the "big picture" before delving into the new charge.

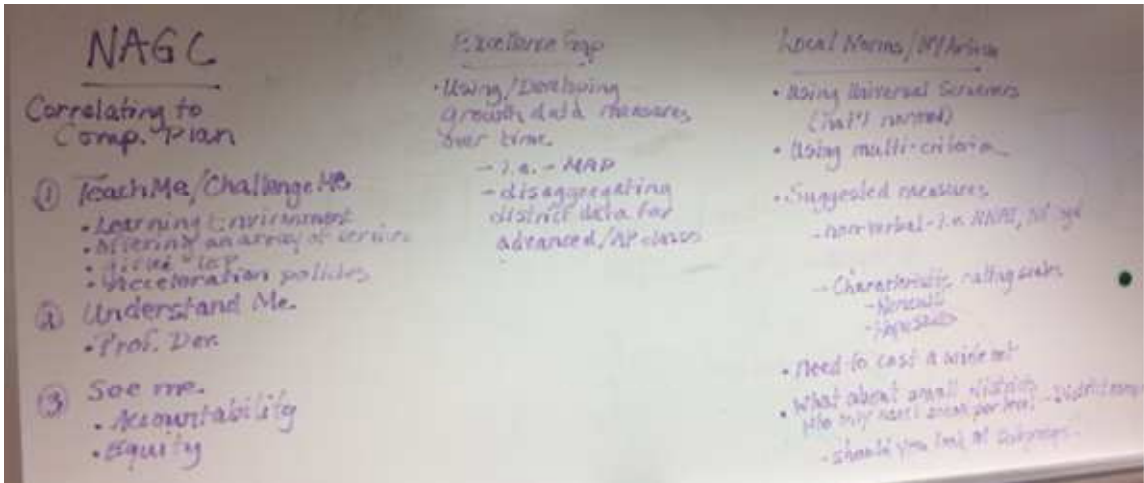
- The newly-approved Virginia Board of Education Comprehensive Plan for 2018-2023 and its priorities and goals were examined.
- The NAGC Advocacy 101 presentation was reviewed.
- Dr. Jonathan Plucker’s work with “The Excellence Gap” and Dr. Julia Roberts’ work with this in Kentucky were discussed. A short related video, “[Give Excellence a Chance](#)” was shared.
- Statistics from Dr. Matthew Makel and Dr. Matthew McBee’s recent NAGC presentation “How Many, Does it Matter, and How to Make it Matter” were studied.
- Discussion regarding the use of local norms for testing, the achievement and excellence gaps, gender bias, and teacher expectations took place.
- Dr. Poland provided a sample data report that contained categories for consideration that might help make the current annual gifted report a more effective tool. A recent graph relating achievement levels and average socio-economic standing from the [New York Times](#) was also shared.

Small Group Reflection and Discussion

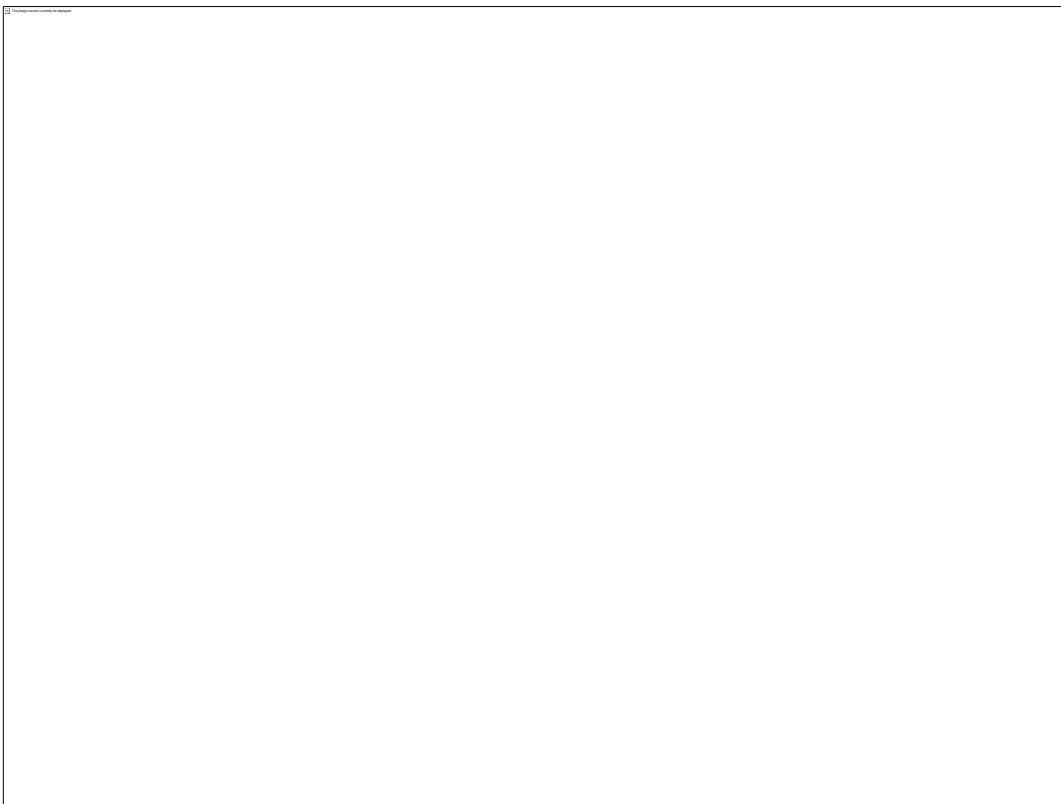
- A working lunch was held while members divided into three groups to reflect, digest, and discuss the information presented. Group members then “jigsawed” and presented their conclusions to different small groups. Finally, the groups shared a visual representation of their discussions to the whole committee.
 - Group 1, Dara Hall, Valerie Tuck, Dorn Wilkins-McCorey, Janice Robertson, and Sarah Haywood focused on the NAGC Advocacy 101 guide and the BOE Comprehensive Plan.
 - Group 2, George Fohl, Patty Griffin, Mandy Barrett, Kim Waite, and Kirsten Maloney focused on Dr. Plucker’s “Excellence Gap”.
 - Group 3, Laura Kelly, Becky Johnson, Bill Ellis, Sandy Cole, and Becky Dangerfield focused on the recent NAGC presentation by Drs. Mackel and McBee and the NY Times Article.
- Group visual representations included:
 - A graphic reflecting the inter-relatedness of the BOE charge, BOE Comprehensive Plan, and NAGC advocacy guide from Group 1.



- A chart detailing how the excellence gap fit with NAGC advocacy guide and how local norms for testing would benefit identification of students from Group 2.



- A chart aligning the BOE Comprehensive Plan, NAGC’s advocacy guide, “Excellence Gap” information, use of local norms, and the BOE charge from Group 3.



- Dr. Poland will send more information for members to consider and an electronic survey will be sent so members can add further input for review. Discussion will resume during the next meeting.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Reports from Members/Representative Groups

- Becky Dangerfield: Pass
- Sandra Cole: Region 7 continues to offer high quality professional development for all teachers at little

or no additional cost to individual counties/cities in the region (19 total).

- Mandy Barrett: Pass
- Dara Hall: Pass
- Laura Kelly: Roanoke City is increasing its program offerings in middle school Honors ELA courses. An overnight Astrocamp field trip is planned for 140 3rd-5th grade gifted students in March. Second grade screening will take place in January. Staff is working to update the Local Gifted Plan in preparation for a peer review with regional coordinators, and six staff members attended the recent NAGC conference in Charlotte.
- Kim Waite: Pass
- Valerie Tuck: Eight Norfolk schools are participating in a CodeVA grant that provides professional development, Chromebooks, and robots for elementary students. Students are learning coding through Scratch Jr. and progress to coding the movement of their robots. This helps to close the access gap for students to technology.
- Kirsten Maloney:
 - For VAG, the recent conference was a success. There were 2 keynote and breakouts on a variety of topics addressing practitioners, researchers, and programs. The deadline for innovative grants is December 11, 2017 and the deadline for outstanding student, teacher, and leaders is March 26, 2018.
 - In Fairfax, staff has been piloting a rubric to measure growth in the Young Scholars model to have schools set goals and submit data to show growth in the strength of the model in action in their schools. Resource teachers and principals are reporting use of the rubric and having concrete goals has led to deeper understanding and commitment to the model.
- Becky Johnson: Pass
- Jan Robertson: Pass
- Dorn Wilkins-McCorey: Virginia Beach held a successful “Social-Emotional Needs for the Gifted” parent conference on November 4, 2017. Parents and students loved it, there was an Activity Resource Center for students, and they also participated in a panel and attended workshops. The Community Advisory Committee is currently focused on high school gifted resource teachers and visiting each gifted resource teacher. The gifted program is also starting its second year with the Francis Land House partnership for kindergarten students.
- Sarah Haywood: York gifted staff is moving forward with goals and activities related to its new gifted plan, including implementing a series of four talent development lessons in first grade classrooms. These lessons purposely expose students to analytical thinking and problem solving, and lessons are followed by NNAT screenings. This is currently taking place in four schools, with the hope of moving to a division-wide first grade screening next year.
- George Fohl: In Chesterfield there are gifted education reforms being proposed, with staff looking to introduce new screening and identification tools, and piloting the NNAT and HOPE teacher rating scales. There is a community engagement event planned for December 5, 2017. “Glimpse into Gifted” will provide parents with dinner and a night of information. This is designed for parents of both identified and non-identified students.

- Patty Griffin: Henrico has developed and piloted a Maggie Walker Governor's School online application which has been very successful. There are currently 580 applicants. A new gifted middle school program will open in the fall of 2018 for 400 students. There are 250 student applications, and there will be a lottery to select students. Teachers have been selected and hired. Region 1 coordinators are working together to conduct a technical review training and review their plans. The coordinators are also sharing service options and providing assistance to smaller divisions.

Final Thoughts

- Upcoming meeting dates
 - February 9, 2018
 - April 20, 2018

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM