

**Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee**

The regular meeting of the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee was held on Monday, April 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in room 113 of the School Administration Building located at 2512 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Voting members present: Lisa Burns, Kim Curry, Pam Faber, Hugh Greene, Danniele Hall-Bond, Miriam Rodil, Laurie Steentofte, Victoria Walker, Holly Wilson

Voting members not present: Dorothy Jones, MaryAnn Magnant

Ex-Officio members present: Kristin Fraley, Kelly Hedrick, Chris Jones, Becky Wallace, Laura Wright

Ex-Officio members not present: Angela Boubouheropoulos

Guests present: Dr. Esther Monclova-Johnson, William Goff, Susan Sumnick (parent of seventh grader attending Virginia Beach Middle School)

I. Welcome – Introduction(s)

At 6:30 p.m. Hugh Greene welcomed the Committee members and guests to the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Hugh Greene asked the members to introduce themselves, including the attendance zone they represent, to the guests.

Hugh Greene stated that Chris Jones, CAC student representative, has been an asset to the Committee over the past two years. Hugh Greene commended him on his accomplishments. Chris Jones was accepted to the University of Virginia and received a full scholarship. Chris Jones agreed to offer his input on the gifted programs in Virginia Beach for the Committee members.

II. Special Order/Topics

A. Public Comments - None

**B. Questions and Discussion with Dr. Esther Monclova-Johnson,
Director of Equity Affairs**

Hugh Greene thanked Dr. Monclova-Johnson for taking time to attend the Gifted Education Community Advisory Committee meeting. Dr. Monclova-Johnson thanked the members for inviting her. Dr. Monclova-Johnson explained that her responsibilities include monitoring the progress of goal 5 of the Strategic Plan and establishing communication with the community and parents. Dr. Monclova-Johnson shared a brief overview of her career in education.

Dr. Monclova-Johnson addressed questions from Committee members:

- *How might the work of the Equity Office support the gifted program's goal to increase identification of under-represented populations identified for gifted services?*
Serving as an ombudsman for employees and parents for issues regarding cultural diversity and equity, the goal is to broaden the communication and the dissemination of information to parents, while reducing the parent's fear of participating in the program.
- *How do you define minority in gifted programs?*
Ethnic designation is the most prevalent and most identifiable means of defining a minority status, but the goal of the office is to promote equity and excellence among all students. Working with community organizations will help promote the division's equity initiatives.
- *What is the scope of the Equity Office's mission?*
To make sure there is an open, transparent system that deals with the issues regarding cultural diversity and equity related to the academic performance of minority students. Parents and community should feel that they have an ear within the division that will listen to their concerns.

Hugh Greene thanked Dr. Monclova-Johnson. The Committee appreciated her taking her time to meet with them.

III. Business Meeting – Call to Order

Hugh Greene called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

A. Approval of March 2009 Minutes

Kim Curry made a motion to approve the March 20, 2009, minutes as submitted. Holly Wilson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Membership Recommendations for June School Board Meeting

Pam Faber made a motion to nominate Leni Pryor to fill the vacant position for the Tallwood High School zone. Victoria Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried. Pam Faber will contact Leni Pryor and explain the nomination process.

Hugh Greene distributed a copy of the CAC membership ethnic breakdown. Dorothy Jones, Miriam Rodil, and Danniele Hall-Bond will be leaving the Committee at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school year. The Committee is slated to present nominations for membership vacancies to the School Board in June. The Committee will take

membership nominations for the Bayside, Kempsville, Princess Anne, and Tallwood zones at that time.

B. Gifted Students in Academy and Advanced Academic Programs

Kelly A. Hedrick distributed a breakdown of percentage of identified gifted students participating in the Academy Programs and Advanced Academic Programs in response to a Committee request for information at the March 20, 2009 meeting.

V. New Business

A. Site Visit Debriefing

Committee members each provided an overview of their site visits. The members stated their observations and labeled them under the four observation areas: advocacy, curriculum and instruction, collaboration, and communication.

Hugh Greene made a motion to extend the meeting and Kim Curry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Report to the School Board

1) Local Plan Updates

Kelly A. Hedrick distributed a Local Plan update for 2008-2009. The update was a summary of accomplishments related to the Local Plan and items that will be completed before the Committee presents their annual report to the School Board in June.

2) Recommendations

Kelly A. Hedrick distributed a copy of the CAC recommendations submitted to the School Board as part of their annual report over the past three years. Hugh Greene asked that each member read over the past recommendations and formulate recommendations to include in this year's report to the School Board.

C. From the Floor - None

VI. Adjournment

Laurie Steentofte made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Curry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Gizzi
Recording Secretary