

VATE Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, February 20, 2010 10:30am
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Members present: Kirk Dolson, Peggy Gearheart, Julie Singleton-Smith, Chuck Miller, Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Adria Merritt, Roark Mulligan, Tracy Robertson, Peggy Gearhart, Mary Davis, Sara Zeek, Linda MacCleave, Crystal L. Haskins, Arleatrice Winters

- I. Call to order, adoption of agenda – The meeting was called to order at 11:00am.
- II. Welcome and Introductions – Welcome given by Adria Merritt.
- III. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report – minutes have been adopted via email and posted
 - B. Webmaster's Report – Linda MacCleave – [See Full Report](#): *Highlighted Comments*: Expect full access for membership and registration via PayPal by April 1, 2010.
 - C. Public Relations – Kathryn Geranios – Kathryn would like her role to be utilized in the following manner:
 - Help create VATE folders of materials or kits to be used at various functions to introduce VATE to educators, from different points of the state
 - Help to clarify issues of VATE/NCTE to educators and media; assist with advocacy when needed
 - Solicit articles to assist Sarah Zeek
 - Help to write and/ or edit articles to media or educators when needed for advocacy or raising public awareness concerning VATE
 - This role will not provide public relations for the annual conference unless the President requests a second (or third) pair of eyes for letters and materials generated by the conference committee and/or presiding officer
 - D. Multicultural Liaison – Mary Davis –
 - Heritage Award: members will need to look for prospects: persons of color who are actively encouraging multiculturalism in their schools.
 - Affiliate Multicultural Award: Mary has identified activities for board members and affiliates to look for in their perspective areas: participation in African American Read-In, reading circles on ethnic literature, development of lesson plans on multicultural literature, speakers, conference sessions, topics and presenters, awards, membership drives, representation in activities.
 - VATE Good Reads: this will be a new feature on the website that will provide a list of books recommended by teachers as good choices to use for students. Please submit recommendations for this feature on the website.
 - E. Excellence in Student Literary Magazines – Frejya Bergthorson –
 - Submission Date: July 1
 - It was suggested that at the fall conference, we could have a table to highlight the magazines. VATE could possibly have a link on the website to showcase articles.
 - F. NCTE Achievement in Writing Award – Troy Ketch –
 - Feb. 2 Submission Date
 - G. SLATE Liaison – Deborah Carrington –
 - The issue of censorship was discussed by the board. The board will brainstorm ideas to generate dialogue on the topic.
 - A question posed to Deborah by VATE: What procedure does Deborah follow to get information?
 - It was recommended that SLATE provide information about its mission in the VATE newsletter.
 - H. VETAC Liaison – Rafe Telsch – [See Full Report](#)

- I. VCEE Liaison – Hood Frazier –
 - The VCEE members developed a letter to the VDOE concerning the new SOLS. The letter synthesized information and presented respective positions on SOL issues from English educators from around the state. Faculty from Radford, Longwood, Liberty, Christopher Newport and William and Mary contributed to the letter which was sent to the VDOE.
 - The VCEE has revised its constitution and mission statement and has updated the link on VATE website.
 - VCEE will continue to update our information about how “the teaching of writing” is taught around the commonwealth in teacher preparation programs.
 - VCEE will meet in the spring at James Madison University to revisit our yearly progress and to identify new opportunities for collaboration and development.
- J. VDOE Report – Tracy Robertson – [See Full Report](#) *Highlighted Comments*:
 - New standards of Learning were approved January 14, 2010. Full implementation of the standards will begin in 2013; field-testing will begin next year.
 - The Curriculum Framework Committee nominees have been approved. Tracy anticipates having the Curriculum Framework in the hands of the schools by the beginning of next year. The Blueprint will follow the Curriculum Framework.
 - Beginning next school year, teachers should begin teaching the new standards.
 - Expect a continued emphasis of nonfiction reading; a media literacy strand has been included.
 - Beginning in elementary school, grade 4, a research strand will be tested.
 - Keep an eye on the Common Core Standards: commoncorestandards.org. They will be published in March; Common Core Standards are in conjunction with “Race to the Top.”
 - Refer to the Executive Summary.
 - Virginia's Language Arts Supervisors will meet April 14, 2010.
 - March 10 and 17 were dates given for the SOL Writing Assessment for those districts who requested additional time due to missed snow days; an announcement will be made next week regarding the new testing date.
- K. VSRA Liaison – Silvia Babcock – No report
- L. NCTE Liaison – Jan Suppa-Friedman – [See Full Report](#) *Highlighted Comments*:
 - Tracy Robertson nominated Sara Zeek for the High School Teacher of the Year Award; Arleatrice seconded the motion; the motion passed. Jan has materials ready for submission. Awards: SLATE awards (Deborah Carrington), Newsletter (Sara Zeek), Web site (Linda MacCleave), Leadership Development nominee (Board please continue to consider nominees for this award), Journal Award (Robert Williams), and Multicultural Award.
 - Jan would like to know which four members will be going to NCTE Leadership meeting to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana July 10-12. NCTE helps with the funding. NCTE would like VATE to send four leaders (Adria, Crystal and Julie were recommended).
 - NCTE in Orlando. Members are still in discussion as to who will attend.
 - Advocacy Day on April 22, 2010.
- M. Members-At-Large
 - Elementary –Nancy Webb/Kirk Dolson – Kirk wants to seek new ways to tap into the rich usefulness of elementary school teachers. Fall VATE conference sessions should definitely include more of elementary teacher presentations. This would bridge the gap between strategies in elementary/ middle/ and high school.
 - Mary Bailey will present at the 2010 conference, so we will have an elementary strand represented. VATE needs to spark more interest among elementary teachers.

- Middle –Arleatrice Winters/Jennifer Bartholomew – **Book Trailer Competition:** next year, there will be a elementary, middle, and high school sector for the Book Trailer award.
 - Secondary – Brent Fleisher/Lynn Armstrong – **Richard A. Meade Award**, No report
 - Colleges – Mary Beth Cancienne-Acgtblu/Daniel Woods – **Foster B. Gresham Award**
- N. Affiliate Chair Report – Roark Mulligan – Roark can be a contact person for affiliates who do not have a contact person.
- O. Vice President's Report – Julie Singleton-Smith –
- Julie contacted authors for the WRITE program; authors expressed interest and excitement.
 - Julie made contact with VBATE for the conference; door prizes, and gift certificates are in the making.
 - The Middle School Reading Conference will forward information to the board.
 - If any members are planning to attend the March symposium, please submit your names to Adria.
- P. Past-President's Report – Chris Woods –
- The Big Read of Roanoke Valley – The writing contest is underway. VATE has agreed to publish the winning essays in the VEB edition that follows after the contest deadline in early March. Check out the website at www.bigreadroanokevalley.org or on Facebook.
 - Conference responsibilities – the vendor invite and registration form have been added to the VATE website and the vendors have had their second emailing about the forms, date, etc. All is on track concerning vendor arrangements.
 - PATE news – The 4th Annual mini-conference is set for April 20, Tuesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Addison Middle School, Roanoke, VA. Speakers are Mary Bailey – author of *Vhan Zeely and the Time Prevaricators*, and Aillen Murphy, director of the Blue Ridge Writing Project who will present on “Ever Notice the “Try” in Poetry. He will also discuss the writing project.
- Q. President-Elect's Report – Sarah Tanner-Anderson – **2010 VATE Conference**
- Sarah is working diligently on decorations and solidifying items for the conference. All contracts have been signed.
 - Christopher Howard is scheduled for the Saturday luncheon. Kylene Beers will be the Saturday evening speaker. Maggie Steifater is the Sunday brunch speaker.
 - Poetry Society Night is on the Friday kick-off.
 - Please encourage colleagues to attend the conference.
 - Sarah is asking that individual affiliates please donate gift baskets to make the connection between VATE and affiliates.
- R. Executive Secretary's and Conference Coordinator's Report – Chuck Miller –
- The hotel is giving a free room at the hotel as a door prize at the conference. Membership was updated last night. Building level memberships are not being renewed.
 - Chuck would like us to consider new ideas for membership. Roark mentioned the possibility of a lifetime membership; if VATE does consider a lifetime membership, the option should be given to retired teachers. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.
- S. Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gearhart –
- The conference profit is \$6,297.79; congratulations to Adria for an outstanding conference.
 - The current VATE checking account balance: \$14,431.51

T. President's Report – Adria Merritt –

a. Two affiliates are now active in the Tidewater area:

- **NSU/VATE** (Teachers for the Dream Recipients) Sponsor: Dr. Karen Tatum February- They are inviting kids from NSU's Child Development Lab (licensed pre-K through first grade school on campus) to Madison for snacks and readings and show and tell on key figures in African-American History.
 - March – They are planning an Easter Egg Hunt for community kids that also involve literacy.
 - They will submit an article highlighting their events to the *Needle's Eye* (March 12)
- **PenVATE** (Newport News, Hampton, York County, Williamsburg James City) SOL Symposium – Thursday, Sept 30 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm at Christopher Newport in the David Student Union, Washington Conference Room. Tracy Robertson will be the featured speaker. Teacher Empowerment Kits will be given in the spring with "Have You Heard the Buzz Flyers"
- Please consider the following awards: Service Award (September 15), Teacher Mini Grants, The Leon F. Williams Award for Significant Contribution to English Language Arts by an organization, institution, or program has been established to honor Leon F. Williams, who served VATE as first as president and then as executive secretary for many years.
- "What I Know For Sure" column for *Needle's Eye*: Janelle Spitz, Asst. Principal (former language arts teacher): March 12 submission for *Middle School Voices*
- Linda moved that we have a new Student Affiliate Position; Tracy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Publications – Carolyn Matthews –

A. *Needle's Eye* – Sara Zeek – the newsletter needs to have a new focus to create buzz. Sara needs help getting articles. Adria suggested that we pull from our affiliates and encourage consistency with submitting articles. The newsletter should meet the needs of our teachers and increase membership.

VEB – Robert Williams – No Report

B. Policy and Practice Chair – Linda MacCleave – [See Full Report](#) *Highlighted Comments*

- Everything designated as deleted in 2009 has now been deleted
- All yellow highlights, indicating new in 2009, have been eliminated; all yellow highlights will be for 2010 website, except for changes made in October 2009.
- Changes in October noted in [Full Report](#)

IV. Old Business –

A. **Teleconferencing**: the board agreed that SKYPE is not an option at this time.

V. New Business – No new business

VI. Announcements – No announcements

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.