

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
February 11, 2016

Members and Alternates (A) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
Manuel Alvarez (A).....	Goochland County
Chris Archer	Henrico County
Jonathan T. Baliles	City of Richmond
Karin Carmack	Powhatan County
Steve A. Elswick	Chesterfield County
Evan Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Richard W. Glover	Henrico County
Kathy C. Graziano, Treasurer.....	City of Richmond
Gloria L. Freye	Chesterfield County
Leslie Haley.....	Chesterfield County
Jimmy Hancock.....	Henrico County
Dorothy Jaeckle, Vice Chairman.....	Chesterfield County
David A. Kaechele	Henrico County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek	Hanover County
Susan Lascolette	Goochland County
Kelli Le Duc (A).....	New Kent County
Floyd H. Miles, Acting Chairman.....	Charles City County
Tyrone E. Nelson, Secretary.....	Henrico County
Larry Nordvig.....	Powhatan County
C. Harold Padgett	Hanover County
W. Canova Peterson	Hanover County
Edward W. Pollard	New Kent County
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
George Spagna	Town of Ashland
Carson Tucker	Powhatan County
Christopher Winslow.....	Chesterfield County

Members Absent

Tommy Branin	Henrico County
Timothy M. Davey	Chesterfield County
James M. Holland.....	Chesterfield County
Michelle Mosby.....	City of Richmond
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
Rodney Poole	City of Richmond
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County
Frank J. Thornton	Henrico County

Others Present

John Amos RRPDC Legal Counsel
Jack Berry Richmond Region Tourism
Cyane Crump Historic Richmond
Mike Gill Hanover County Public Schools
Lloyd Lenhart Office of Congressman Dave Brat
Katherine O’Donnell Richmond Region Tourism

Staff Present

Martha Shickle Executive Director
Jo Evans Assistant Executive Director
Julie Fry Executive Secretary
Sulabh Aryal Senior Planner
Catherine Bray Intern
Anne Darby Senior Planner
Billy Gammel Senior Planner
Chuck Gates Manager, Community Affairs
Ashley Hall Manager, CRC
Barbara Jacocks Director of Planning
Jin Lee Senior Planner
Kathy Robins Senior Planner
Greta Ryan Senior Planner
Jackie Stewart Manager, Special Projects
Sarah Stewart Senior Planner
Peter Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator

Call to Order

Mr. Miles, RRPDC Treasurer, called the regularly scheduled February 11, 2016 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the RRPDC Board Room. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Ms. Shickle reported that a quorum of members was present.

B. Appointment/Election of Members to Serve as Officers

Mr. Miles asked Mr. Amos, RRPDC legal counsel, to provide information to members on the need to appoint/elect officers for the remainder of FY16.

Mr. Amos noted that Powhatan County appointed a new member of its Board of Supervisors to serve on the RRPDC, replacing Mr. Williams, and opted to relinquish the RRPDC Chairmanship for the remainder of FY16. Chesterfield County appointed Ms. Jaeckle to serve on the RRPDC Executive Committee, replacing Mr. Gecker who did not seek reelection to the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Jaeckle has indicated that she will be filling Mr. Gecker's unexpired term as RRPDC Vice Chairman for the remainder of FY16 but did not feel that she could step in to act as Chairman.

Mr. Amos said he has determined the most efficient method to fill the vacant RRPDC Chairman's slot would be for Mr. Miles to be appointed as Acting Chairman for the remainder of FY16. He will resign his position as RRPDC Treasurer. By being appointed as Acting Chairman, this will satisfy the RRPDC Bylaws stipulation that one jurisdiction cannot be *elected* to serve as Chairman for two consecutive terms.

Ms. Graziano will resign her current position as RRPDC Secretary to move into the Treasurer's position, and Mr. Nelson (Henrico County) will be elected to serve as Secretary for the remainder of FY16.

Mr. Amos said Mr. Miles and Ms. Graziano are being asked to resign from their current positions as they took an oath for the positions they currently hold.

Mr. Amos noted that as Ms. Jaeckle has indicated she does not want to move into the Chairmanship in FY17, it has been agreed that Mr. Miles will stand for election as RRPDC Chairman for FY17. Ms. Jaeckle will remain as Vice Chairman; Ms. Graziano will remain as Treasurer; and Mr. Nelson will remain as Secretary. Elections for FY18 will resume the agreed upon rotation of jurisdictions to serve as officers (Chesterfield County – Chairman; City of Richmond – Vice Chairman; Henrico County – Treasurer; and New Kent County – Secretary).

Mr. Amos said the proposed motion is included in the RRPDC Agenda Book under Tab 1:

It is moved that, due to an unexpected vacancy in the Chairmanship of the Commission, the resignation of the current Treasurer, Mr. Miles, representing Charles City County, is accepted and he is relieved of his duties as Treasurer of the Commission. Mr. Miles is hereby appointed Acting Chairman of the Commission through the end of FY16, with Ms. Jaeckle, representing Chesterfield County, remaining as Vice Chairman. The resignation of Ms. Graziano as Secretary to the Commission is hereby accepted and she is hereby relieved of her duties as Secretary. Ms. Graziano is elected Treasurer of the Commission for the balance of FY16. Mr. Nelson, representing Henrico County, is hereby elected Secretary of the Commission for the balance of FY16.

Mr. Miles asked if there were any questions or any discussion prior to the motion being made.

Mr. Nordvig said he would like to express his appreciation for the Board's understanding of the situation. He said he did not feel it would be appropriate for him to serve as Chairman given the fact that he is new to the RRPDC and has never attended any of the meetings.

Mr. Peterson said he would make the motion as written and included under Tab 1 in the RRPDC Agenda Book. The motion was seconded by Mr. Agelasto.

Ms. Jaeckle said that her reason for not wanting to step into the Chairman's position is that she has not served on the RRPDC Executive Committee previously and did not feel she is ready to assume this position, especially in light of Ms. Shickle's recent appointment as Executive Director. She said she appreciated Mr. Miles' willingness to serve as Acting Chairman.

There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Acting Chairman Miles asked if everyone around the table would introduce themselves and provide their affiliation as there were so many new members in attendance today.

Acting Chairman Miles thanked everyone for their participation and willingness to serve on the RRPDC Board.

C. Request for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business

Acting Chairman Miles asked if there were any requests to change the agenda or order of business. No requests from members were received and Acting Chairman Miles indicated the agenda would stand as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period

Acting Chairman Miles opened the public comment period, noting that if anyone wished to address the members, to please come to a microphone and provide his or her name, locality of residence, and if appropriate the name of any organization being represented. Acting Chairman Miles asked that any citizen speaker please limit comments to three minutes, and organizations should limit their comments to five minutes.

As there were no requests from the public to address members of the Board, Acting Chairman Miles closed the public comment period.

E. Approval of December 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Acting Chairman Miles asked Mr. Nelson to present the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the minutes. There being none, Mr. Nelson moved for approval of the December 10, 2015 minutes as

presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graziano. There was no additional discussion and the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously. The following members abstained from the vote as they were not in attendance at this meeting: Mr. Nordvig, Ms. Lascolette, Ms. Le Duc, Mr. Spagna, Ms. Freye, Mr. Winslow, and Ms. Haley.

F. Approval of November 2015 Financial Report

Acting Chairman Miles asked Ms. Graziano to present the financial report for November 2015.

Ms. Graziano said if there were no corrections, she would move to accept the November 2015 financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jaeckle. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Acting Chairman's Report

Acting Chairman Miles noted that during this morning's Executive Committee meeting, resolutions of appreciation were approved for the following outgoing members:

Mr. Gecker	Ms. Prichard
Mr. Gulley	Mr. Warren
Mr. Kaechele	Mr. Williams
Mr. K. Peterson	Mr. Witte

Staff will forward these to the outgoing members on behalf of the Commission to thank them for their service.

Acting Chairman Miles again welcomed newly appointed members:

Chris Archer, Henrico County Planning Commission
Tommy Branin, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
Angela Cabell, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors (Alternate)
Gloria Freye, Chesterfield County Planning Commission
Leslie Haley, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors
Wayne Hazzard, Hanover County Board of Supervisors (Alternate)
Susan Lascolette, Goochland County Board of Supervisors
Larry Nordvig, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors
George Spagna, Ashland Town Council
Christopher Winslow, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors

H. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Shickle brought members' attention to the staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 4 and details work being advanced by staff on behalf of the

localities. She said staff will be happy to address any questions on what is included in the report.

Ms. Shickle reported that she has spent most of her time since assuming her position on December 16, meeting with RRPDC staff, the region's chief administrative officials and managers, and RRPDC community partners. She is also becoming familiar with the agency's programs. Ms. Shickle said she has attended two RRTPO Board meetings since her arrival, and today is her first RRPDC Board meeting.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items included on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to bring before the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. GO Virginia Initiative

Acting Chairman Miles welcomed Mr. Bill Leighty, who will provide an update on the GO Virginia initiative.

Mr. Leighty thanked members for the opportunity to meet with them this morning. He said he is with a group called Decide Smart, which is a small consulting firm in the Richmond region. Other members of Decide Smart are Bob Holsworth and Lane Ramsey. Mr. Leighty noted that Dr. Bill Boshier also worked with Decide Smart until his untimely death last year.

Decide Smart consults with many local governments, and it was in this capacity that they were invited to join the GO Virginia Coalition. Maguire Woods has been leading the effort for just over a year. Mr. Leighty said he will provide an update only on the initiative during this morning's meeting and not make any requests for action by the RRPDC Board.

GO Virginia – Growth and Opportunity for Virginia – was begun by several Virginia businessmen who were concerned about the future of Virginia's economy. Virginia is consistently ranked 48th/49th among the states in its recovery from the recent recession. This is due in large part to Virginia's over dependence on military spending in both the Northern Virginia and Tidewater regions of the state. Virginia's dependence on military spending and federal grants had acted for several years as an insulator against recession. In combination with the recession and the federal budget sequestration passed by the US Congress, cuts in military spending have had a negative impact on Virginia.

Mr. Leighty said it was recognized that the way to lead Virginia out of the recession was not at the state or federal levels but at the regional level. The state does not have a good

track record when it comes to local government relations. The state has promised to create many programs in the past only to have support for the projects withdrawn, such as regional jails. It was determined that incentives to local governments to collaborate regionally would be the best way to spur new economic development.

Mr. Leighty said GO Virginia also recognized that the wrong way for the state to address economic growth was through mandates or by disrupting any powers currently held by localities. Keeping the localities' rights to do what they deem best for their own locality was imperative.

GO Virginia is a bipartisan, business-led, game-changing initiative that will provide a new framework for strengthening the economy in each Virginia region through enhanced collaboration by business, educators, and local governments that is incentivized and encouraged by the state.

Current legislation in the General Assembly include the following:

- SB 449: Growth and Opportunity Grants (Senators Norment and Howell)
- HB 834: Growth and Opportunity Grants (Delegates Cox and Torian)
- SB 459: Collaborative Jobs Development Act (Senators Ruff and Saslaw)
- HB 846: Collaborative Jobs Development Act (Delegates Hugo, James, and Minchew)

All bills are moving successfully through the process.

The GO Virginia Plan will build on the implementation of Blueprint Virginia. This is very business-led with no mandates. Incentives will be provided to induce collaboration regionally, through a bottom-up approach. The Plan will invest in research and STEM initiatives to diversify Virginia's economy and enhance municipal efficiency and cost savings that will redeploy funds to regional development.

Mr. Leighty said there are five programs that are encompassed in three pieces of legislation:

1. innovation
2. investment
3. improvement
4. invention
5. infrastructure

Current GO Virginia proposals are:

- \$38.4 million in GO Grants – a new incentive tool to promote regional collaboration on economic development incentives for finding efficiencies
 - \$100 thousand capacity building – by region
 - larger grants in years two and three to continue work
- \$140 million for research and development (universities)

- \$2.43 billion bond package (specific infrastructure needs)

Grant applications will be judged on the level of regionalism, the level of business inclusion, workforce efforts, level of group purchase efforts, and similar criteria. Mr. Leighty noted that the criteria is still in a developmental stage.

Mr. Leighty said additional information is available on the GO Virginia website, including information on how to join the coalition and other ways to assist. Mr. Leighty suggested that members may want to begin thinking collaboratively on the types of projects they can work on in a regional effort. Regional leaders will also need to be selected.

It is envisioned that any two or more localities, and they need not be contiguous, can apply for the grants. These localities will be defined as a region. PDCs are the way the state recognizes regions. However, the state also recognizes that MPOs and Economic Development Authority (EDA) boundaries do not always coincide with those of PDCs. There is flexibility in which localities will make up a region.

There will also be a need for regional boards, appointed by the localities in the region that is created. The current legislative stipulation is that the boards must be comprised of 50 percent or more from the business community in addition to elected officials and other community partners.

All proposals will be reviewed by a board of about 23 members. The makeup of this board will be one-third legislators (House Appropriations, Senate Finance), one-third Governor's cabinet (Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Natural Resources, etc.), and one-third local governments and business appointees. A majority of each of these groups must approve the proposals. Grants will be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Leighty said he will be glad to answer any questions. He noted that of the 21 PDCs in the state, 18 have joined the Coalition. There is already a work group comprised of representatives from the Virginia Municipal League, Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, and the state agencies that will be working on the effort. This group is working on the legislation that will regulate the initiative.

Mr. Elswick asked if the localities will be required to provide matching funds to the grants. Mr. Leighty said there is no requirement for matching funds, and up to ten percent of the grant can be used for administration of the grant. The grants will be judged on how well the regions will be able to solicit support from local businesses and other partners in the form of in-kind contributions, etc.

Mr. Peterson asked if single jurisdictions can apply for a GO Grant. Mr. Leighty said the legislation requires two or more localities to apply together as a region and the localities do not have to work through their PDC.

Mr. Peterson said on page 3 of the handout, it notes that no tax payer funds will be used. He asked if that was a discrepancy. Mr. Leighty said no new taxes will be levied to pay for the initiative. Existing growth-related funds will be used.

Mr. Glover asked if GO Virginia has taken a position on the Dillon Rule. Mr. Leighty said the coalition will not disturb the Dillon Rule in any way. He said the Code of Virginia already allows any two jurisdictions to work together, using any powers they have already been granted, in order to work on projects.

Ms. Lascolette asked if the GO Virginia coalition will be considered as a regional government. Mr. Leighty said this would not be the case because the regions are not exercising any governmental authority. The regions will be applying for grants that can go through one or more jurisdictions. One jurisdiction will, however, need to act as a fiscal agent.

Ms. Lascolette asked if, by spending tax payer funds, that would have the region acting as a regional government. Mr. Leighty said he did not see how the region would be acting as a regional government when it would not be exercising any governmental authority. The grant is not coming to individual governments. The grant will come to the entity that is created to work on the project – the region that is formed by two or more jurisdictions which are going to apply for the grant funding and work on the project together.

Mr. Glover asked what the 18 PDCs have agreed to by joining the Coalition. Mr. Leighty said they have signed on to support the GO Virginia Coalition and be part of the working effort. Joining the Coalition does not commit a locality/PDC to do anything. It just means that the locality/PDC likes the idea and wants to be part of the conversation.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked for clarification on who will comprise the oversight board. Mr. Leighty said appointments made to the board by the Governor must come from lists submitted by the localities.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked who will comprise the regional councils and if they will be based on PDC footprints. Mr. Leighty said the state is only anticipating that seven or eight regions will be created. The legislation will leave the composition of the regions up to the localities.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked who will decide which localities will join which region. Mr. Leighty said the Growth and Opportunity Board will have the final say.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she understands the regional boards will not be permanent. She asked how the regional boards will operate without a permanent location or staff. Mr. Leighty said the legislation does provide that the GO Virginia board can maintain staff to assist in grant evaluations, etc., but this staff will not put together the grants.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked if there had been thought given to using existing PDC staffs. Mr. Leighty said that was discussed but Go Virginia does not want to dictate that regions must use their PDCs.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked how GO Virginia regions will work with other groups such as the Greater Richmond Partnership, which is already working with localities on economic development. Mr. Leighty said it will be up to the localities to determine which group they want to work with to apply for grants. He said there is no requirement for localities to apply for GO Grants.

Mr. Agelasto said this sounds like a catch-all for any project that localities want to work on, from incentivizing businesses to capital projects. Mr. Leighty said the only exclusion is that there will be no funding provided for transportation-related projects.

Mr. Agelasto asked for a definition of “infrastructure” with regard to the GO Grants. Mr. Leighty said this may refer to assisting localities with supplying such things as water and sewer to new project-specific buildings, such as a new Governor’s School for coding.

Mr. Agelasto asked if funds will be diverted from the Governor’s Opportunity Fund and similar programs. Mr. Leighty said it will not divert any funds from the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund.

Mr. Agelasto asked if this would allow school boards to collaborate without cooperation from the local governing bodies. Mr. Leighty said he did not think this would be practical as the governing bodies will need to know about the projects. He said in his travels around the state, he has noticed there is very little happening regionally with regard to education other than Governor’s Schools related to exceptional student programs.

Mr. Agelasto said he is concerned that school boards may not be informed regarding these types of opportunities. Mr. Leighty said there is poor regional cooperation when it comes to those children who need additional attention with regard to education.

Mr. Pollard commented that he sees GO Virginia as offering a lot more flexibility for localities to work together on regional projects.

Mr. Leighty said there is a companion piece of legislation that states if regions do bring in new economic development, the localities that worked together will share the income tax generated from the new economic development.

Acting Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Leighty for his presentation and asked that members discuss this initiative in their jurisdictions to determine if this is something they would like to support. He said this topic will be included on the March PDC meeting agenda for discussion on where each jurisdiction stands with regard to the initiative.

B. Regional Forum Series: Hanover County – Governor’s School Academy Program

Acting Chairman Miles said the Regional Forum Series has been very helpful for his jurisdiction to hear what efforts have been undertaken in the different localities. He asked Ms. Kelly-Wiecek to introduce today’s speaker, Dr. Michael Gill, Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek she is very glad to introduce Dr. Gill, who was recently hired to replace Dr. Jamelle Wilson as Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools. He has been involved in the school system for the past couple of years, previously serving as Superintendent of Instructional Leadership. Dr. Gill spent 16 years in the Chesterfield County Public School system and was a graduate of that school system.

Dr. Gill thanked members for the opportunity to speak with them today. He said that Robert Hundley, Chairman of the Hanover County School Board, had planned to be in attendance today but needed to meet this morning with the Virginia School Board Association, for which he is the president-elect.

Dr. Gill said the initiative he’ll be speaking about today, the Hanover Regional Governor’s School for Career and Technical Advancement (HRGS-CTA), is a first of its kind in the country. He provided a timeline of the program’s development:

- General Assembly approved a \$100 thousand planning grant for CTE Governor’s School legislation (Del. Chris Peace)
- \$100 thousand planning grant awarded to Hanover County Public School in fall 2014
- proposal approved by Hanover County School Board in spring 2015
- proposal approved by Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in fall 2015
- specific funding for the project included in Governor McAuliffe’s proposed budget in December 2015

Dr. Gill said that historically, “vocational” education offered to teach job skills to students who would typically not attend college. Today, Career and Technical Education (CTE) is for all students. CTE can include such programs as mechatronics, blended advanced manufacturing/electronics, homeland security, and biotechnology. These professions are in high demand, and schools need to provide these skills to students who have an interest in them.

The first session of the HRGS-CTA will be held from July 3 through July 22, 2016, at the University of Richmond and will be offered to students who are gifted in CTE subjects. The program is a summer academy and is one of 20 summer academies across the state.

There are 32 school divisions participating in the HRGS-CTA – Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) school divisions 1 and 3. Everyone represented at today’s RRPDC Board meeting is included in Region 1. There are 15 school systems in Division 1 and 17 in Division 3.

Selected students will have demonstrated accomplishment or the potential for accomplishment in career and technical aptitude as characterized by:

- superior reasoning
- persistent technical curiosity
- advanced use of language
- exceptional problem solving
- rapid acquisition and mastery of facts, concepts, and principles
- creative and imaginative expression beyond their age-level peers in CTE

CTE is divided nationally into 16 career clusters:

- agriculture, food, natural resources
- architecture/construction
- arts, A/V technology, communications
- education and training
- finance
- government and public administration
- health sciences
- hospitality and tourism
- human services
- information technology
- law, public safety, corrections, and security
- manufacturing
- science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- transportation, distribution, etc.

Only 40 students will be admitted into the program, which will focus on workplace readiness skills:

- personal qualities and people skills
- professional knowledge and skills
- technology knowledge and skills

Students will be grouped into teams that will focus on aggressive problem solving, team building, entrepreneurial skills, and business plans. The idea is to show the students they can be proud of their career choice and to learn skills that will allow them to advance in the career once they enter the workforce. For example, a student who chooses to become a carpenter may one day own a construction company.

Applications were sent to each of the school divisions on January 29 and are due by February 23. Students will be notified of their status in the application process by April 11. Intent forms will be due by April 20. Each school system is allowed to nominate three students. A regional group will determine which students will be selected to attend HRGS-CTA in order to have a diverse representation of interests.

Dr. Gill said that the Governor's proposed budget has a specific line item to fund HRGS-CTA. If the budget passes, the cost to the school divisions will be zero. All indications are that the line item will remain intact as the budget moves forward.

Dr. Gill said this has been trailblazing work as there were no national models to study relating to the concept. He thanked Dr. John Lewis, former Superintendent of Fauquier County Public Schools, who served the planning director for this effort.

Students will be housed at the University of Richmond for the three-week program and will take daily field trips to various businesses around and outside of the region to look at operations, etc., of the businesses.

Dr. Gill said he will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Agelasto asked how transportation for the students will be handled. Dr. Gill said this is a residential program at the University of Richmond. The VDOE will require a fee of \$185 per student. The school division can decide to pay the fee on behalf of the students; otherwise, it will be the parents' responsibility. Students will need to provide their own transportation to and from the University of Richmond.

Mr. Fabricant asked if the school divisions address soft skills generally for all students. Dr. Gill said that CTE courses have competencies in which students are graded. The first 21 competencies in CTE courses are workforce readiness skills. These are identical across the state and cover such things as how to answer questions during an interview and how to build a resume. Dr. Gill said every high school in the state is required to offer at least 11 CTE courses. CTE skills will benefit all students, and this is what must be communicated to students. Dr. Gill said that organizations such as Junior Achievement also address the workforce readiness skills sets.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said in the Hanover County Public Schools, students begin learning these skills through the DARE program. She added that workforce issues have been discussed by various boards on which she has served, including the Greater Richmond Partnership, the Capital Region Collaborative, and the Workforce Investment Board. One particular issue raised in all discussions is how to address the needs of students who will not attend college.

The Hanover Education Expo was held this past October and involved the Specialty Center with a health sciences focus (new for 2016), the Advance College Academy (new for 2016), the Hanover Center for Trades and Technology, and the International Baccalaureate program. On the first night, 800 attended and on the second night, 750 people attended. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said this was advertised throughout the Hanover County School System at all grade levels. Those in attendance were able to see a broad spectrum of successful career possibilities. She said this type of approach can be taken in any locality to emphasize to children and parents that there are many career paths they can choose from and feel good about.

Mr. Nordvig asked how the applications for HRGS-CTA were distributed. Dr. Gill said these went to each school superintendent, who determined which department would handle the distribution. In some systems, this was handled by CTE directors and in others those heading up gifted programs were distributing the applications. Each division was provided with guidelines on how to handle the distribution. Dr. Gill said he met personally with each of the school system's superintendents to introduce them to the program.

Mr. Nordvig asked how the program will be handled if the General Assembly does not pass the budget with this line item intact. Dr. Gill said the cost to each school division would be a little less than \$2,500.

Mr. Elswick said he believes CTE has been neglected for several years. He added that in education, there is focus on the gifted or on the challenged. He said those students in the middle are left out and he's not sure how these students can be assisted. Dr. Gill said in each locality, there are many initiatives that can appeal to "the masses."

In Hanover County, the Education Expo is an example of how these middle-range students can be assisted. Dr. Gill said one of the most damaging things that can be done to a student is for the student to be told he cannot or should not take a career path in which his interests lie. Students can be told the realities of each career path and what will be required. Limitations should not be set. Hanover County schools are trying to develop and provide a menu of offerings to students in their freshman and sophomore years in high school. During junior and senior years, students must select one of five pathways to follow.

Ms. Jaeckle said she is glad to see more opportunities are being offered in CTE courses as these types of immersion programs offer a very different approach to learning. Dr. Gill said he believes that the HRGS-CTA will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those students who attend.

Acting Chairman Miles thanked Dr. Gill for his presentation.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Acting Chairman Miles encouraged members who have a few minutes this morning to introduce themselves to Ms. Shickle after the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no additional business to bring before the Board, Acting Chairman Miles adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Martha Shickle
Executive Director

Floyd H. Miles, Sr.
Acting Chairman