

AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Minutes of April 23, 1982

State Education Building
Sacramento, California

Members Present:

Laura Tower, Chairperson
Kenneth M. Aoyama
David Austin
Joe Camarillo
Jack Chappell
Jan Eberly

Patrick W. Emery
Joseph R. Martinez
Jack Richardson
Tracy Schortman
Marden Wilber, Jr.

Members Not Present:

John Thurman

Robert Trigg

Staff Present:

Donald R. McKinley
Patricia B. Langlin
Janet McCormick

Marion Raymond
Donald E. Wilson

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

John Baber, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen
Ken Harris, California Agricultural Teachers Association
Marcia Johnson, Office of Assemblyman John Thurman

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairperson Laura Tower. All present introduced themselves.

Dr. McKinley expressed the appreciation of both the Department and the State Board of Education to the committee members for accepting the invitation to serve. He indicated Superintendent Riles' support for a strong agricultural vocational education program. Dr. Riles looks to the committee for recommendations on how we can best provide leadership at the state level to assist districts in carrying out agricultural education programs. The purpose of the advisory committee is clearly established in the legislation: "...to develop recommendations for state programs in agricultural vocational education for presentation to the Legislature for review and to the State Board of Education for its approval and adoption."

Dr. McKinley commented on Senator Nielsen's April 21 letter to members of the advisory committee, indicating that Dr. Riles is fully committed to carrying out the legislation as written. However, the Superintendent and any other constitutional official are opposed to and will fight legislation that will direct how a department should be organized. This principle is long established; the Constitution of the United States provides for separation of power. Dr. Riles feels it is

the responsibility of the Department of Education to determine how it shall be organized. Dr. McKinley suggested that any differences which may appear to exist between Superintendent Riles and Senator Nielsen be left to them to resolve and that the committee move forward on recommendations relating to curriculum and program. The committee was assured that their work will have the support of Dr. Riles, Dr. McKinley, Mrs. Langlin, and Mr. Wilson.

Mrs. Langlin expressed her commitment to vocational education in all its aspects, and she will work to have vocational education take its proper place in the education system in California. Future federal funding for vocational education is a concern at the present time. There is a need for a broad, master plan for vocational education to be established through state legislation. Also, there must be strong cooperation between business, industry, agriculture, local educational agencies, and the Department to make available the best opportunity for education for students in California.

Mrs. Tower discussed meeting procedures and agenda timelines.

Discussion of SB 187 (Chapter 571 of 1981). Several issues were raised relating to implementation of the legislation. One issue related to location of the seven regional supervisors of agricultural education in the Department's organization. Mrs. Langlin provided information regarding organization of the Office of Vocational Education, including the three regional and three subregional offices. The committee requested an organizational chart, as well as descriptive information; and this will be provided to the committee members prior to the next meeting. Information will include organization and staffing levels prior to reorganization in 1978 and as it is currently.

The level of staffing in all subject areas was reviewed; and vacancies cannot be filled at the present time because of the Governor's freeze on hiring of personnel, which applies to all sources of funds. It is hoped the freeze will be lifted on July 1, 1982.

Mrs. Langlin discussed anticipated federal VEA funds for 1982-83. A continuing resolution would provide funds at the same level as 1981-82. Mrs. Tower inquired about the percentage of state and federal funds, and Mrs. Langlin responded that 50 percent of the state administrative budget are state funds, as is required by federal law.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Chappell/Eberly) that the committee send a letter to Superintendent Riles recommending that the agricultural vocational education unit created by SB 187 include the seven regional supervisors. Following discussion, it was M/S/C (Aoyama/Wilber) to postpone action on the motion until the next meeting when additional information is available.

A question was asked relating to rules and regulations as discussed in the legislation and whether the Department has established these for implementation of the bill. It was noted that the legislation authorizes the establishment of rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill, and it is felt any changes should benefit all of vocational education. We need to be sure

any changes are necessary to provide the best vocational education programs to the students in California. In the process of the committee's activities, it may become apparent there is a need for new rules and regulations.

Dr. McKinley commented that the committee has a unique opportunity to develop recommendations for ideal agricultural vocational education programs and to identify potential resources. In the development of implementation procedures, it might be determined that legislation is needed, organizational changes may be appropriate, and additional task force activities may be necessary.

There was discussion regarding current organization, prior organizations, and intent of the legislation regarding an agricultural vocational education unit. It was suggested that the advisory committee has responsibility to look at the existing delivery system and potential delivery systems and make appropriate recommendations. Consideration will be given by the advisory committee to inviting Senator Nielsen to meet with them regarding the intent of SB 187.

The committee requested information regarding timeline and plans for implementation of the legislation. Mrs. Langlin indicated a timeline was provided to Senator Nielsen, and the Department has adhered to that timeline. Don Wilson was appointed State Supervisor of Agricultural Vocational Education on February 1, 1982, and the advisory committee has been selected. Mr. Aoyama commented that if implementation of recommendations becomes a funding issue, he can take the committee's recommendations to the California Advisory Council on Vocational Education, since he is also a member of CACVE.

Information regarding existing programs was requested, and summary data and comparisons on vocational agriculture enrollments and programs was provided. Additional information regarding current programs will be provided for the committee.

A brochure about curriculum guidelines available from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, was distributed. Curriculum content for vocational agriculture is not mandated, but guidelines are available which can be adapted to individual district/school needs. Mr. Wilson would like to have consideration given to some program standards for agricultural education.

Mr. Wilson indicated he has staff developing some material for the advisory committee to consider, if desired. This material will be reviewed in the Department and may be used as base material by the committee. The report of the Commission on Vocational Education will be provided to the committee for their information.

There will be a presentation to the advisory committee at the next meeting regarding development of curriculum guidelines and curriculum materials now available.

Mrs. Tower would like the advisory committee to address its responsibilities and be as productive as possible as soon as possible. The timeline in the legislation indicates recommendations shall be made available on or before January 1, 1983. The Department may become involved in the budget process toward the end of the current year, and it was indicated that staff has fewer school visitations during the summer months.

Future Meeting Dates. The next advisory committee meeting will be on Monday, May 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff will work with Mrs. Tower to develop a proposed monthly meeting schedule, which will be distributed to the advisory committee and discussed at the next meeting.

Formation of Work Committees. Consensus was that the committee needs background information and a better understanding of that information and the legislative purpose before forming work committees.

Several options for getting input from agricultural education teachers were discussed, including inviting them to a committee meeting, visiting local schools on an individual basis, having CATA develop a compilation of problems from the teachers' perspective, and meeting with CATA during their summer workshop in San Luis Obispo in June.

Other Discussion. It was agreed that a place on the agenda would be provided for comments by any observers wishing to address the committee and that a time limit would be set for such remarks.

Mr. Wilson asked for clarification of his position with the advisory committee, and Mrs. Langlin indicated he will serve as staff to her and hence staff to the advisory committee.

The chairperson will review all suggestions for presentations to the advisory committee and determine the amount of time available for each meeting. Staff will then handle the arrangements to have such presentations made.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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