

AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Room 165 State Education Building
721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento CA

MINUTES OF JULY 19-20, 1982

Members present:

Patrick Emery, Vice Chairperson	Joe Martinez (July 20)
Kenneth Aoyama	Jack Richardson
David Austin	Tracy Schortman
Joe Camarillo	Laura Tower
Jack Chappell	Robert Trigg (July 20)
Jan Eberly	Marden Wilber (July 19)
Mark Linder	

Members not present:

John Thurman

Staff Present:

Jerry Biggs
Genevieve Marsden
Warren Reed
Joe Sabol
Don Wilson

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Jeff Arambel, Office of Assemblyman John Thurman, Sacramento
Sandy Beck, Regional Supervisor Agricultural Education, Sacramento
Phil Benson, Office of Senator James Nielsen, Sacramento
Jerry Davis, Assistant State FFA Advisor, Sacramento
Ken Harris, California Agricultural Teachers Association, Sacramento
Pat Langlin, State Director, Vocational Education, Sacramento

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Patrick Emery. He introduced the new member of the committee, Mark Linder, Director of Educational Projects of the California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento.

Minutes - June 29, 1982. The minutes of June 29, 1982 were approved as distributed.

Presentation on Funding of Agricultural Vocational Education Programs.
Patrick Emery stated that at the last meeting the committee requested Don Wilson and his staff to make this presentation and explain: (1) current funding, sources of funds, flexibility and (2) how the program would be funded and how much it would cost if the Biggs Committee Report were accepted and implemented. He requested that the material be presented to the committee at this time.

Don Wilson introduced Jerry Biggs, Regional Supervisor Agricultural Education, Fresno (also chairman of the Biggs Committee) and Sandy Beck, Regional Supervisor Agricultural Education, Sacramento, and asked them to proceed with the presentation. Their information was presented orally with key points indicated on flip charts (see Attachment 1). They will be compiling more detailed information, in writing, for the next meeting of the committee. A discussion, question, and answer period followed, and the meeting recessed at 8:15 p.m.

Reconvene - Tuesday, July 20. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Vice Chairperson Patrick Emery. He read Mark Linder's letter offering the committee the use of California Farm Bureau Federation facilities for future meetings. He then requested that the group proceed with the remaining agenda items.

Staff Reports. Patrick Emery asked Pat Langlin and Don Wilson to give Staff Reports. Pat Langlin reported that she had reviewed the proposals submitted by the Agricultural Education Staff and had met with Don Wilson on them. She discussed budget cuts and the 25% cut in travel, which is non-negotiable. Pat Langlin and Don Wilson are continuing to meet on the implementation of the Agricultural Education Unit. Now that the State Budget is finalized, more progress can be made in implementing the unit.

Committee Responsibility. Laura Tower asked Patrick Emery to restate the responsibility of the committee. He quoted from Senate Bill 187 that:

"The purpose of the advisory committee would be to develop and submit recommendations for state programs in agricultural vocational education, as specified, to the Legislature for review by January 1, 1983, and to the State Board of Education for approval and adoption. The advisory committee would be terminated on June 30, 1983, and would serve without compensation, including travel and per diem."

....."It shall be the purpose of this committee 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. These recommendations shall be made available on or before January 1, 1983. The advisory committee shall be terminated on June 30, 1983. Recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the development of a curriculum and a strategy for the purpose of establishing a source of trained and qualified individuals in agriculture, a strategy for articulating the state program in agricultural vocational education throughout the state school system, and a consumer education outreach strategy regarding the importance of agriculture in California. The advisory committee of agriculturists shall serve without compensation including travel and per diem."

After a short discussion, Patrick Emery called on Jerry Biggs to proceed with the next item on the agenda.

Review of the Biggs Committee Report. Jerry Biggs introduced Warren Reed, Regional Supervisor Agricultural Education, San Luis Obispo, and Dr. Joseph Sabol, Teacher Educator, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. They assisted in the presentation. The Biggs Committee Report is a two-part proposed State Program for Agricultural Education for California Schools: Part I - Vocational Education in Agriculture; Part II - General Education in Agriculture. The "Foreword" of the report states the reason for preparing it in two parts and lists what each is expected to accomplish. The report contains proposed PRODUCT STANDARDS and OPERATIONAL STANDARDS for both parts. Each of these Product and Operational Standards was reviewed by Jerry Biggs, Warren Reed, and Joe Sabol. A discussion, question, and answer period followed. It was pointed out that quality standards need adequate funding. The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

Reconvene - 12:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened. Patrick Emery asked the observers if they wished to make any statements. Phil Benson said a few words. He stated he is a former State FFA President and former National FFA Secretary. He is now working in Senator James Nielsen's Sacramento office. He said the Senator is very interested in what the committee is doing and what it will recommend to the Legislature and State Board of Education as a program of Agricultural Vocational Education in California.

Continuation of Review of the Biggs Committee Report. Patrick Emery then asked Jerry Biggs, Warren Reed, and Joe Sabol to continue with this item. There was considerable discussion and debate about Operational Program Standard No. 15 - Adult Education. Questions were asked regarding the desirability of charging fees, the suitability of the committee being involved with "adult" education, the California Young Farmers Association and the State Department of Education's responsibility for it; the possibility of deleting Standard No. 15 entirely or considering it later in the "outreach program."

MOTION: It was moved by Jack Chappell, seconded by Joe Camarillo, that Standard No. 15 be deleted from the Vocational Education in Agriculture Standards and that it be given further consideration by the committee at a later time.

ACTION: Motion passed.

Following a brief break, the group reconvened to continue with the General Education in Agriculture Operational Program Standards and the one Product Standard submitted for this portion of the program. The discussion and debate on these items resulted in the following:

ACTION: All of the "standards" in this section of the report shall be called "guidelines";

"minimum compliance criteria" in this section of the report shall be called "suggested minimum compliance criteria";

"maximum enrollment" shall be changed to "recommended maximum enrollment";

these standards are to refer only to grades 7-12.

(See Attachment 2)

Recommendations on Various Parts of the Report. Patrick Emery asked how the committee wished to proceed. Should it go ahead and recommend the vo-ag standards proposed in the Biggs Committee Report, with suggested funding, or should it propose an alternate two-phase program with one phase meeting current needs and no financial impact and the second phase proposing what the program should be with a request for adequate funding to implement phase two? The committee is concerned that whatever plan is presented that it will be implemented and not put on the shelf.

Much discussion followed, with several members of the committee again expressing concern that Pat Langlin, Don McKinley, and John Thurman, or their designated representatives, were not present; that it will take up additional time to see that they are made aware of the committee's discussion and work on important items. Concern was also expressed that the Department of Education had made no response to a written request for their reaction to the Biggs Committee Report. *It was stated that the clerk/secretary/assistant/ or other staff members.* Further discussion followed. After a direct question again from Patrick Emery on how to proceed,

It was moved by Kenneth Aoyama, seconded by David Markkela, that the committee proceed to develop a single statement of standards for Vocational Education in Agriculture with a mechanism for funding by which LEAs can comply with the standards.

More discussion and debate followed:

MOTION: It was moved by Kenneth Aoyama, seconded by David Austin, that the committee proceed to develop a single statement of standards for Vocational Education in Agriculture with a mechanism for funding by which LEAs can comply with the standards.

ACTION: Motion passed.

The committee discussed the format to be used. Several committee members expressed the wish to cut down on the paperwork and reporting which would be required of LEAs to implement the program. Jack Chappell pointed out that the reporting required by the standards would provide hard evidence and strong data in support of the program. Some of the committee members questioned the need for the "product standards." It was pointed out that these would provide a tool for "accountability."

ACTION: The committee requested the Agricultural Education staff to revise and develop far less complicated "Product Standards for Vocational Education in Agriculture."

Don Wilson stated this would be done and submitted to the committee for them to study prior to the next meeting.

The committee then proceeded to consider each of the Operational Program Standards for Vocational Education in Agriculture. There was considerable discussion on each of the standards. Standard No. 2 - Supervised Occupational Experience was explained. Jack Richardson and Jan Eberly indicated that SOEP is "not just for rural kids." Both mentioned the "Los Angeles Beautiful" program, and Jack Richardson was asked to give a description of this and how his program worked when he was a vo-ag teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

ACTION: The committee voted to accept Operational Program Standards No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 as amended (see attachment 3). The committee will consider the remaining Operational Program Standards at the next meeting.

Next Meeting. The committee agreed that its next meeting will be held as follows:

- Monday, August 23, 1982 - report, ready to start work at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 24 - report, ready to start work at 8:00 a.m.
- Mark Linder's invitation that the group use the California Farm Bureau facilities for the meeting be accepted. Details are to be worked out by Mark Linder and Don Wilson.
- The agenda will include:
 - ... Consideration of Operational Program Standards No. 5-14 inclusive
 - ... Consideration of simplified Product Standards to be supplied by the Agricultural Education Staff
 - ... Consideration of additional information on funding to be supplied by Sandy Beck after discussion with Robert Trigg
 - ... Consideration of recommendations on full funding to implement the proposed program for Agricultural Vocational Education in California

- It was requested that the Chairperson invite Senator James Nielsen and Assemblyman Norman Waters to attend the September, 1982 meeting of the committee for discussion of possible legislative strategy.
- The committee will consider the recommendation of Ken Harris that one or two of the committee members go with him to the Agriculture Roundtable Breakfast to inform that group and the Agriculture industry what the committee is doing and possibly seek the aid of the Roundtable in obtaining adequate funding for Agricultural Vocational Education.

Compliment to Committee. Joe Sabol asked to make some comments. He said he was very favorably impressed with the committee members, their dedication and hard work, and thanked them for permitting him to help with the review of the Biggs Committee Report. Patrick Emery accepted the compliment and thank the Agricultural Education Staff, on behalf of the committee, for their presentations.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.