

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

MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 1982

Members present:

Laura Tower, Chairperson	Patrick Emery
David Austin	Joe Martinez
Joe Camarillo	Tracy Schortman
Jack Chappell	Robert Trigg
Jan Eberly	

Members not present:

Kenneth Aoyama
Jack Richardson
John Thurman
Marden Wilber

Staff present:

Jerry Biggs
Genevieve Marsden
Marion Raymond
Don Wilson

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Jeff Arambel, Office of Assemblyman John Thurman, Sacramento
Karl Bakken, Regional Supervisor Agricultural Education, Los Angeles
Greg Carson, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento
John Gamper, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento
Jim Gordon, La Cooperativa, Sacramento
Ken Harris, California Agricultural Teachers Association, Sacramento
Mark Linder, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento
Charles Parker, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Kingsburg
Warren Reed, Reg. Supervisor Agricultural Education, San Luis Obispo
Vince Rosse, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Riverside
Cecily Sprouse, La Cooperativa, Sacramento
Bob Young, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Santa Paula

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Chairperson Laura Tower. All present introduced themselves. The agenda was discussed and a minor change was indicated. Staff Reports and CATA Reports were two, separate items. There were no other changes, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

Minutes - May 24, 1982. The minutes of May 24 were approved as distributed.

Current Articles on Agricultural Education Programs in Schools. Several newspaper and magazine clippings were passed around and discussed. Laura

Tower suggested that any future articles on this subject, which might be of interest, be brought to the meetings and shared with committee members.

Suggested State Program for Vocational Agricultural Education. Prior to this meeting, two documents had been mailed to committee members for their review and information. They were:

- a "Proposed Plan for Agricultural Education in California For The Period 1975-1980", which was prepared by the Agricultural Education staff in 1974 but never adopted by the State Department of Education.
- a "Two Part State Program of Agricultural Education For California Schools", which was prepared by a committee of current Agricultural Education staff (the Biggs Committee) for presentation to the Agricultural Vocational Education Advisory Committee.

Jerry Biggs was requested to give some background information on the staff members who prepared the report; the reasons for the report; and an explanation of various portions of the report. He explained that the committee was appointed by Don Wilson and was composed of:

Jerry Biggs, Regional Supervisor for Agricultural Education, Fresno (who acted as chairperson);

Jerry Davis, Assistant State FFA Advisor, Sacramento;

Ted Gregg, Regional Supervisor, Chico

Jean Landeen, Regional Supervisor, Oakland

Warren Reed, Regional Supervisor, San Luis Obispo

Richard Rogers, Teacher Educator, Calif. State University-Fresno

Joseph Sabol, Teacher Educator, Calif. Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo

Following Jerry Biggs' presentation, there were discussions and questions on funding, ROP/C, enrollments, number of school sites in the area covered by a regional supervisor, program standards, evaluation, enforcement, double periods, supervised occupational experience programs (SOEP), class sizes, expenses and release time for SOEP, advisory committees for Agricultural Education vs. across-the-board advisory committees, vo-ag teachers teaching classes other than Vocational Agriculture, part-time teachers, legislative support for adequate funding, vo-ag teacher support for program standards, local control of programs through local advisory committees, and preparation of enough quality vo-ag teachers to service local education agencies (LEAs) adequately.

Lunch. The meeting recessed from 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. for lunch at "The Lobby" with participants in the FFA Regional Leadership Conference and legislators.

Meeting Reconvened. The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Jerry Biggs was requested to reiterate reasons why his committee prepared their report.

Observers. Laura Tower asked the observers to introduce themselves and make any statements they wished. Ken Harris stated that vo-ag teachers are receiving excellent training in the five institutions but can't do what they are expected to do because of crowded classes and lack of adequate funds. He believes the system described in the "Biggs Committee" report would help solve these problems. Mark Linder indicated the California Farm Bureau Federation is very interested in Vocational Agriculture and listed some of the things his organization is doing to assist. Greg Carson agreed and stressed the importance of Vocational Agricultural Education. Jeff Arambel also stressed Vocational Agricultural Education's importance. He indicated Assemblyman Thurman is very interested in this subject and would help to assist with any legislation that might be appropriate.

Sub-Committee Report. Joe Camarillo, Chairperson; Kenneth Aoyama; David Austin; Jack Chappell; and Jan Eberly composed the sub-committee which attended a meeting of the California Agricultural Teachers Association on Tuesday evening, June 22, 1982, at California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo. A report of that meeting was prepared (see copy attached), and Joe Camarillo distributed copies to the full committee. A discussion and question period followed.

Jack Chappell indicated that there was a "standing room only" crowd at the meeting. The teachers were very interested and want members of the Agricultural Vocational Education Advisory Committee to be fully aware of their interest and willingness to do whatever they can to see that Vocational Agricultural Education is improved. They believe that Vocational Agricultural Education should not be considered by local schools and districts as an "elective."

Counseling and the difficulty vo-ag students have in getting counselors to let them take Vocational Agriculture was discussed. Jan Eberly pointed out that most of the vo-ag teachers do a better job for the students than the "counselors" do. Joe Martinez agreed, indicating all those in the room with a "farm" background and schooling who have college degrees, teaching credentials, and have achieved success. Joe Camarillo agreed and stated Vocational Agriculture and the FFA helped him get his education.

Identified Concerns and Priorities. These items were discussed. Patrick Emery voiced concern that Patricia Langlin and Donald McKinley were not present. Several members expressed doubts about coming up with a plan that the Department of Education would find acceptable. Several members stated they did not want to submit material in pieces. They believe a total "package" must be developed by the committee.

Concern was expressed about the working and meeting schedule of the committee. It was the consensus that the next meeting should begin at 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 19, 1982, continue to 10:00 p.m., reconvene at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 20, and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

The group agreed it would like someone from the Agricultural Education staff to go through the "Biggs Committee" report, point by point. The committee also requested that a presentation be made on how Vocational Agriculture programs are currently funded and that information also be supplied to them on the cost of the program outlined in the "Biggs" report.

Jan Eberly asked what decision was made regarding committee members who can't attend meetings. Laura Tower replied that there had been discussion about appointing a "member at large" but nothing had been done about it.

Jack Chappell asked what had been done about the regional supervisors. Don Wilson indicated the Agricultural Education staff had drafted two alternative proposals and submitted them to Pat Langlin. She has not had time to review them but wishes to discuss them with Don Wilson next week. The "proposals" are still in the dialogue stage. The committee requested a report on this at the next meeting.

Several committee members expressed appreciation for the "Biggs Committee" report, indicating it gave them a clearer picture of what needs to be done by the committee to complete the task assigned to it under Senate Bill 187.

Future Speakers. A previous request had been made to schedule Teacher Educators from the five teacher training institutions and from the staff of the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing as speakers at future committee meetings. It was decided by the committee that this was not necessary at this time.

Next Meeting. The committee agreed that:

- The next meeting of the committee will be held at the State Education Building, Sacramento, as follows:
 - July 19, 1982 - report, ready to start work at 6:30 p.m. and continue to 10:00 p.m.
 - July 20, 1982 - report, ready to start work at 8:00 a.m. and continue to 5:00 p.m.
- Laura Tower and Patrick Emery would meet with Don Wilson on preparation of an agenda for the July meeting.
- Someone from the Agricultural Education staff will go through the "Biggs Committee" report point by point to:
 - a. explain how Vocational Agriculture programs are currently funded, and to

- b. give an estimate of the cost of the program as outlined in the "Biggs" report.
- Don Wilson will give the committee a report on the alternative proposals regarding regional supervisors, which were submitted to Pat Langlin, indicating what action the Department has taken on them.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. .

Sub-Committee: Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo
 Chairman: Joe Camarillo, 4-H Youth Advisor, Madera County
 Members: Kenneth M. Aoyoma, President, Ag. West Inc.;
 David Austin, Master Calif. State Grange
 Jack Chappell, Agriculture Instructor
 Jan Eberly, Past State President, California Assn. F.F.A.

Approximately 70 California Agriculture Teachers Association members met at 7:30 P.M., June 22, 1982 in Ag. Room 220 on the Cal-Poly Campus at San Luis Obispo, California. Fourteen C.A.T.A. members representing the seven C.A.T.A. Regions in California discussed their concerns-that S.B. 187 Committee must be made aware that it is affecting the existing and future of Vo-Ag Education in the State of California. The discussion on concerns lasted from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM, after the regional representatives voiced their concerns, questions at large were entertained. In summary, the following concerns were discussed, not necessarily in order of priority:

A. Regional Supervisor cut back: Concerns expressed for more supervisory visits per district with emphasis on program and vo-ag instructor standard evaluations. Most would like to be visited at least once per month, not only for evaluations of programs, but also overseeing the use of V.E.A. Funds and to keep district administrator abreast to state funding and implementation of a possible Vo-Ag Education State Plan.

B. Program Standards: Reason for, district are requiring more body or numbers per class room, this reduces the quality of education for vocational training in vocational agriculture classes as well as the agriculture related industries in our California economy. Recommended that agriculture classes be limited to 30 students and vo-ag shop or laboratory classes be limited to 15-20 students, number games are held over vo-ag teachers heads as a threat; if numbers aren't met, vo-ag teachers will be teaching math, or other classes State required competencies are reducing the time required for a viable vo-ag class instruction necessary to meet today's scientific requirements and ever changing agriculture and agribusiness industries.

Project supervision periods - for project visits and consultation to students and parents.

Program standards be written by knowledgeable people in the field of Vocational Agriculture Education.

Program standard incentives should be offered to school districts that will encourage an improved program, such as double or one and a half A.D.A. for vocational agriculture classes. Reason has been a steady decline in program financing since the halt of the Smith Hughes Act.

C. Financial Support: Agriculture capitalization is twice that needed in industry, approximately \$140,000 investment per employee compared to approximately \$70,000 investment per employee in industry. To maintain a strong program, districts need a money incentive based on the soundness of the vo-ag program.

Extra income be given to school districts, if those districts provide a sound program, through the means of program and vo-ag teacher standards.

D. Deteriorating Vo-Ag Programs: From double periods to single periods has created a general agriculture class situation and makes it more difficult to maintain vocational agriculture education. With shorter periods to train a saleable skill, added with forced increase class sizes that adds to the difficulty of maintaining a true and realistic use of tax payers revenue in this state, has decreased the potential of our youth in replenishing California Agriculture industries. If this snowballing effect is allowed to continue - California's Agriculture will be in a desperate struggle to maintain its number one ranking as the food supplier for the nation and other parts of the world food markets. Vo-Ag programs in the past has provided us with a proven track record that a considerable more classroom time is necessary to educate, train a saleable skill and place our students in the job work force of California Agriculture. We see school districts requiring quantity not quality in our vo-ag programs and this has hampered the vo-ag teachers job of educating. Again, program and teachers standards written into a state plan and submitted to Legislature and mandated by the state may be the only chance left to make California Vocational Agriculture meet the standards necessary to revive vo-ag to its deserved number one ranking in California education.

E. Summary: It was strongly recommended that the vo-ag teachers and programs in California need program standards to work hand in hand with teacher standards keying on goals and objectives and proposals for funding - if Legislature recognizes the fact that Vocational Agriculture Education is vital enough to mandate S.B. 187 and provide a separate unit within the State Department of Education, they also must see that separate funding or budgeting is required to meet it with success. It was felt that our State Department of Education must readjust it priorities to meet the needs of our number one means of economy in the State of California. We need school district money incentives to require district support in maintaining a viable vocational agriculture in their schools.

It was felt that the Regional Supervisors are a necessity for success and supervising both program and teacher standards and overseeing the use of funding associated with these standards. It was felt that standards are necessary and that a State Plan including such standards would not burden the vo-ag teachers as long as funding and supportive time was allowed to maintain such a program.

S.B. 187 Committee members felt it was definitely a well presented and well thought out commitment from the vocational agriculture instructors attending the 1982 California Agriculture Teachers Association Convention.