

Meeting Minutes
Amended- Approved

In attendance:

Members:

Jessica Huntoon	Chair
Patricia Costis	staff, Recording Secretary
Tom Ambler	community
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor
Tanya Bhasin	School Board
Vicky Greco	Parent, Nominating Chair
Lewis Jordan	parent
Joseph Antolin	community
Christina Ohlrogge	parent
Baseemah Cumberbatch-Smith	parent
Diane Wishart	parent
Patricia Brazier	parent

Guests:

Katie Humphrey Morgan	staff
Jackie Chavis	Executive Director, Elementary Schools
John Coleman	Executive Director, High Schools

Mrs. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

Review of Meeting Norms: focus on beginning and ending on time, and staying on topic. Mrs. Huntoon introduced the work session agenda for the evening

Review of April meeting minutes: Mr. Ambler moved that the April meeting minutes be approved as written. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Mrs. Huntoon reminded everyone present of the procedure for the Public Comment portion of the GEAC meeting. She further explained the Public Comment portion would be a regular addition to the GEAC meeting format, bringing our Committee into alignment with all other advisory committees in Norfolk Public Schools. Norms for the Public Comment portion:

1. speakers, please limit comments to 3 minutes
2. responses from GEAC members are expected at a later time
3. Personal business should be addressed directly to the appropriate party, rather than during the Public Comment forum.

In addition to opportunities for oral comment, stakeholders may choose to complete a form to submit questions, concerns, and comments in writing.

Senior Coordinator's Report

Mrs. Stead reported the following:

- Gifted Education and Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) is the new name for the NPS gifted department.
- Mrs. Stead presented an update on the gifted dept. audit process to the School Board on May 1, 2019. A survey has been sent via email to all parents of gifted students, GRTs, principals, assistant principals, and central office personnel. A survey will be sent to gifted students and classroom teachers in September, 2019. William and Mary will present their findings in November.
 - Some GEAC (parent) members stated they did not receive an email. Mrs. Stead said she would follow up with William and Mary and ensure parents received an opportunity to complete the survey.
 - Stage II of the audit will be to examine best practices and service delivery.
- All five NPS high schools will be represented at this year's Summer Residential Governor's Schools.

Other reports from GEARS:

- Mrs. Humphrey-Morgan reported that NPS was well-represented at the Great Computer Challenge. Her second grade gifted class won an award for coding. Additionally, her 4th grade gifted class won the Stock Market Game for NPS.
- Dr. Costis reported that students from Mary Calcott Elementary placed first and third, and students from Crossroads Elementary placed second and fourth at this year's 24-Challenge. Ghent School (middle school team) won the Courtroom Law finals, and Norview Middle took 2nd place.
- Mrs. Huntoon reported that students from the Academy of Discovery at Lakewood won the state Future Problem Solving Competition.

New Business

- Mrs. Huntoon showed a draft of the GEAC meetings planned for SY2019-2020. She noted that the December meeting has historically shown low attendance. Therefore, we may wish to make a decision about that meeting date.
- Mrs. Huntoon reviewed last year's School Board recommendation document. It is located on the School Board webpage. The letter at the beginning of the document serves as an executive summary, making the lengthy document easier to navigate. Mrs. Wishart suggested we shorten this year's document.

Discussion followed:

- Mrs. Bhasin said the document is directly aligned with the Local Plan, and therefore the length is necessary. She assured GEAC members that it is being read by the School Board. Mr. Jordan commended Mrs. Huntoon on the document, saying it is more organized than previous documents, and therefore carried more clout.
- Mrs. Wishart suggested tracking the accomplishments of GEAC, so we could directly see which suggestions were acted upon and which were not. She said she has observed little change in the three years she has been a GEAC member, and would like to see more immediate change.
- Mrs. Wishart asked if GEAC would have the opportunity to meet with the School Board this year. Mrs. Bhasin suggested GEAC could participate in a School Board *chat and chew*, and/or conduct a joint meeting between GEAC and the School Board.
- Mrs. Ohlrogge said she feels GEAC is not taken seriously, and that the School Board is overlooking GEAC as they wait for the William and Mary audit. She also observed that Mrs. Bhasin is the only School Board member who attends GEAC meetings regularly. Mrs. Bhasin said she is the Gifted Dept. liaison. Mrs. Cumberbatch-Smith suggested GEAC could attend School Board meetings.
- Mrs. Wishart said she would like to see more formal feedback from the School Board, regarding the recommendations document.

- Mrs. Brazier suggested organizing a parent/gifted teacher/gifted student alliance in an effort to increase parent involvement. The groups could meet quarterly.
- Mr. Coleman presented to GEAC the process by which students apply for the high school specialty programs:
 - In 2017, the specialty programs were evaluated and the new process is a result of that process. Beginning this year, students were asked to prioritize their program preferences if they were applying to more than one. This task made decision-making easier, and more timely. It also helped ensure students were accepted into their first choice.
 - A single application, once received by the student's home school, was disseminated to the appropriate high school. Committees met to match applicants with their top choices for which they were accepted.
 - Middle School lotteries were held simultaneously.
 - Students receives a single letter, rather than multiple letters from various programs: a) acceptance, b) regret, or c) wait list.
 - Next steps include making the application electronic.
- Mrs. Huntoon reviewed GEAC's Next Steps for GEAC and the break-out work sessions for the evening:
 - Members will make recommendations for each category.
 - Mrs. Humphrey-Morgan suggested making the working documents part of the appendix of the recommendation document.
 - The goal is to have recommendations in place by the end of the evening.
- The meeting recessed at 7:10 pm. Members assembled into small groups to evaluated and make research-based recommendations in each of the 6 agreed-upon topics.
- The meeting reconvened at 7:30 pm. Mr. Ambler moved to approve the draft of the recommendation document. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm