# Gifted Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) to the Norfolk School Board Presiding Officer: Dr. Ronald White

**April 9th, 2024, Meeting Minutes-This meeting was held virtually.**

This meeting was held at: Academy for Discovery at Lakewood Media Center located at 1701 Alsace Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23509**.**

# In attendance:

***Members:***

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| **Dr. Ronald White** | **Chair, Parent** |
| **Hollis Simodynes** | **Co-Vice Chair, Parent** |
| **Dr. Jori Beck** | **Co-Vice Chair, Community** |
| **Karla Stead** | **Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS** |
| **Dr. Serita Griffin** | **Community** |
| **Thomas Ambler** | **Community** |
| **Vicky Greco** | **Parent** |
| **Dominique Lane** | **GRT** |
| **Kelly Maher III** | **Community** |
| **Dr. Jennifer Martin** | **Parent** |
| **Natalie West** | **Parent, Community** |
| **Jennifer Schrader** | **Parent** |
| **Jessica Huntoon** | **Community** |
| **Christina Ohlrogge** | **Community** |

***Guests:***

|  |  |
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| **Heather Pruitt** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Christine Boettger** | **Parent** |
| **Tiffany Geerts** | **Community** |
| **Jill Carlton** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Amy Gortz** | **Parent, Community** |
| **Dr. Joy Lawson-Davis** | **Guest Speaker/Presenter** |
| **Barbara Harrison** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Helen Pryor** | **Community** |
| **Shannon Frazier** | **Parent** |
| **Dr. Scott-Dixon** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Susan King** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Germenia Williams** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Elizabeth Ritter** | **Community** |
| **Darnita Pearce** | **NPS Gifted Resource Teacher** |
| **Natalie Carducci** | **Community** |
| **Andrea Disney** | **GEARS Specialist** |
| **Chera Martinez** | **Parent** |
| **Precious Hayes** | **Parent** |

**Welcome:** Dr. Ronald White, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Old Business**

**Review of minutes:** Dr. White asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes/notes from the meeting held on March 12th,2024, and that were provided via email for members to review.

A motion was made to approve the minutes with a few typo corrections that need to be made. It was seconded and all members were in favor of approving the minutes.

**Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Joy Lawson-Davis**

* Dr. White introduced Dr. Lawson-Davis by reading her bio.
* Dr. Lawson-Davis discussed equity, excellence, and opportunity in Gifted education.
* Key Points
  + Equity and excellence can coexist. We can have equity and gifted programs if we change the way the programs are designed, how students are identified, and how we engage parents and the community.
  + Future-Ed Report 2024, Three successful programs in the nation that can be replicated-New York City (Dr. David Banks), Montgomery County, MD, North Carolina (resources, training, and program models for Gifted students)-Auto Enrollment Program for secondary level Gifted students-looks at students grades and success from elementary on and automatically enrolls them in AP and Honors courses.
  + Equity vs. Equality. Ensuring access to all students and that each student is getting what they need.
  + What do our district practices look like in: Identification, Professional Learning, Engagement with Parents/Communities, C & I and Support Practices, Empowerment of Gifted Students
  + Using an equity lens: does it provide the attention, resources, and empathy that our students need?
  + Persistently underrepresented groups: students of color (Black, Hispanic, Native American), students from poverty, twice and thrice exceptional students, ELL students
  + Identification Strategies that Work: universal screening, local norming, talent pool programs, talent spotting procedures, and listening to the ‘voices of students.’
  + Recommended Steps: **1.** Work with parents and community members and teach them how to become advocates **2**. replicate services that other school districts have found to be successful, **3**. provide professional learning in cultural competency for all educators, **4**. partner with other specialists that serve the same students.

**New Business**

At 6:53 Kelly Maher led the introduction of the applicants/candidates for the GEAC committee.

* Eight new applicants:
  + Belinda Foster
  + Evan Glendinning
  + Amy Gortz
  + Christine Boettger
  + Chera Martinez
  + Precious Hayes
  + Shannon Frazier
  + Tiffany Geerts

At 7:10; guests and visitors were asked to leave the meeting and voting committee members went into a closed session.

**Public comment:** Dr. White opened the public comment portion of the meeting for stakeholders wishing to address the GEAC on the topic of their choice regarding gifted education. All stakeholders are welcome to give their full statements in writing to the GEAC chair at

Follow-up regarding issues raised will be conducted as needed and shared with the full committee. No public comments were offered prior to the meeting.

**Announcements**

* GEAC had a table at Family University.
* Tuesday, April 16th, Little Feet Meet at ODU Boward Stadium, more information at Learning Support
* April 10, 2024, NPS School Board Work Session (4:00p.m.)
  + - School Board Dates: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>.

# REMAINING 2024 GEAC MEETING DATES:

* + Tuesday, May 14 @ 6PM, Media Center, ADL, will hopefully be virtual
  + Tuesday, June 4\* @ 6PM, LOCATION TBD \*Please note change to the first Tues. in June

**Chair Closing Remarks** -Members may submit all feedback via email to Dr. Ronald White at rlwhite@nsu.edu

**At 7:37 p.m. - Dr. White adjourned the meeting**