**Gifted Education Advisory Council October 1, 2019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance:**

*Members:*

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| Jessica Huntoon | Chair |
| Baseemah Cumberbatch-Smith | Vice Chair |
| Patty Costis | Gifted Resource Teacher, Recording Secretary |
| Karla Stead | Sr. Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor |
| Vicky Greco | parent, Nominating Chair |
| Diane Wishart | parent |
| Christina Ohlrogge | parent |
| Andrea Disney | AP Liaison, GEARS |
| Lewis Jordan | parent |
| Nate Kinnison | parent |

*Guests:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dr. Karen Nelson | Gifted faculty |
| Melissa Frye | parent |
| Jennifer Rogers | Parent |
| Walter Rogers | parent |
| Noemi Duman | parent |
| Noelle Gabriel | School Board Chair |
| Tanya Bhasin | School Board |
| Bruce Brady | Acting Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction |

Mrs. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 September meeting minutes:** Mr. Kinnison moved for the date of September minutes be amended from 6/4 to 9/10. Motion passed. Mr. Ambler moved for minutes to be passed as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Mrs. Huntoon reminded everyone present of the procedure for the Public Comment portion of the GEAC meeting. She further noted that the norms were printed on the meeting’s agenda. 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.

**Old Business**

Mrs. Greco stated that the School Board advisory Committee Open House, scheduled for 10/22 has been postponed. No new date has been set. The School Board may elect to simply disseminate FOIA information, without holding a formal meeting.

**Senior Coordinator’s Report**

Mrs. Stead reported the following:

* The College of William and Mary needs assessment of gifted services in NPS will close on 10/2/19. More than 1,000 students have responded, and approximately 400 parents and 200nteachers have responded. Additionally, 19 administrators and 13 school counselors have responded. A report of survey findings is forthcoming, and next steps will be recommended at that time.
* The Middle School Specialty Program Showcase will be held on 10/23/19. And the high School Specialty Program Showcase will be held on 10/30/19. Both events will be at Norview High School AT 6pm.
* Mrs. Disney reported Booker T. Washington and Lake Taylor High Schools are in year 2 of the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) grant. Both schools boast an increase in the participation of AP courses, and AP exams.

**New Business**

* Mrs. Cumberbatch-Smith asked for an increase in the quantity and frequency of news from GEARS.
  + Mrs. Greco suggested a monthly 1-pager. Mrs. Gabriel reminded the group of the NPS “News you can Use” as an outlet where GEARS can submit news for weekly publication.
* GEAC is beginning the cycle of brainstorm, research, narrow and recommend, as was completed last year. This year, the work of GEAC includes expanding upon these recommendations, and brainstorming detailed recommendations form those proposed at the end of SY2018-2019. Mrs. Stead elaborated on each of the recommendations:
  1. *Communication.* The goal is consistent, uniform communication between GEAC, GEARS, schools, School Board and community. GEARS has begun a system of providing professional development (PD) across all content departments. PD topics include the gifted identification protocol, and how services are delivered. Mr. Brady stated that district-wide parent workshops will be offered, and asked GEAC to brainstorm possible topics for these events.
  2. *Gifted Referral Benchmark.* Recommendations must be made and approved by the School Board, as this area is part of the local gifted plan. Mrs. Gabriel asked for as much advance notice as possible when asking for policy amendments.
  3. *Centralized Management of Gifted Services.* Many building administrators are unfamiliar with the local gifted plan. The recommendation is to return central control of gifted staff and services to GEARS and out of site-based management. Doing so will promote uniformity in identification and service delivery. Mr. Brady stated that he supports this recommendation.
  4. *Guidance Counselor Training / School Counselor Collaboration with Gifted Resource Teachers.* GEARS is reaching out to counselors, offering training on the social and emotional needs of the gifted, and on college/career guidance. Mrs. Gabriel said the School Board is recommending that counselors be made 12-month employees
  5. Increased Course Options. GEARS is looking into creating unique course options within the Specialty Programs. Additionally, GEAC recommends strengthening dual enrollment options for NPS gifted students.
* Mr. Jordan asked, “When can we expect a response from the School Board regarding the GEAC Annual Report?” Mrs. Gabriel said she did not have a definite answer about a formal response. She indicated that recommendations regarding policy and budget fall under the purview of the School Board. Among GEAC recommendations, these include the Gifted Referral Benchmark, and school counselor training.
  + Mrs. Huntoon said NPS Central Office staff can address the recommendations outside of policy and budget items.
  + Mrs. Wishart asked for a chart or visual representation of NPS School Board, Central Office, and departments, delineating duties and responsibilities pertinent to each.
* The School Board will be hosting a community meeting for public input on candidates. This meeting is slated for late October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm., so attendees could form small groups to brainstorm work items within the five GEAC recommendations from SY 2018-2019. Leading the small groups were committee members from the 5 work groups who devised the recommendations last year.

The small groups adjourned at 7:30 pm.