

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Members:

Jessica Huntoon	Chair, Parent
Dr. Patricia Costis	Gifted Resource Teacher, Recording Secretary
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor, Parent
Vicky Greco	Parent, Nominating Chair
Christina Ohlrogge	Parent
Tom Ambler	Community
Katie Humphrey-Morgan	Gifted Resource Teacher
Lewis Jordan	Community
Nate Almeida	Parent
Hollis Simodynes	Parent
Maury Howard	Parent
Renisha Ricks	Parent
Laura Ahmadi	Parent
Dr. Karen Nelson	Gifted Resource Teacher
Abbie Watson	Principal, Academy of Discovery @ Lakewood

Guests:

Bruce Brady	Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Kim Walsh	Gifted Resource Teacher
Stephanie Kiefer	Gifted Resource Teacher
Susan King	Gifted Resource Teacher
Andrew Sytsma	Gifted Resource Teacher
Darin Williams	Gifted Resource Teacher

Mrs. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Introductions: All present introduced themselves and their connection to NPS

Review of Meeting Norms: Meeting norms were not reviewed.

Review of meeting minutes: Minutes were emailed to members ahead of the meeting. Motion to approve as-is. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Mrs. Huntoon reminded all present of the public comment portion of the meeting and opened the floor for comment.

- Will GEAC make a position statement to the School Board about the re-opening of school?
 - Mrs. Greco respond that comments to the School Board are welcome via email. But GEAC does not have an official comment. You may speak as an individual, but not as a representative of GEAC.
- How will the annual Grade 1 screening proceed this year (due to COVID)?
 - Mrs. Stead reported that we will proceed, bringing all Grade 1 students into the building for screening. Parents will have the option to opt-in. We will screen those students in Grade 2.

Old Business

Officer's Slate: Mrs. Greco shared her nominating report, proposed a slate of interim GEAC officers, due to the resignation of our vice-chair. No nominations were related to her, to this point. Proposed slate:

Chair: Jessica Huntoon
Vice chair: Patty Costis
Recording Secretary: Jori Beck

Interim officers will serve through June 30, 2021. Nominations will be solicited and accepted for the next school year to begin July 1, 2021. Voting will take place at the May 11, 2021. Motion to accept interim slate carried unanimously.

Senior Coordinator's Report: no report this month

New Business

Mrs. Stead presented:

- Vision: for gifted students: need for challenge for the Plan: clear, concise, consistent, and equitable plan of services
- Components of 5-year Local Plan, approval protocol
- Focus Groups and their work to assist in updating the Local Gifted Plan:
 - Definition of gifted- identification
 - District-wide services- curriculum and program development, service delivery models
 - Training, professional development (classroom teacher, YS teachers, GRTs), and accountability
- Recommendations from the William and Mary Needs Assessment
- Timeline for completion of gifted plan revision, final draft complete: May 31, 2021.
- GEAC and community stakeholders as a focus group- will open in March. Details to follow. The Focus Group session will be held at the end of the March GEAC meeting.

The floor was opened to questions. No questions asked. Mrs. Stead asked the body to put questions in the Chat as we go.

Mrs. Huntoon reported:

Formal Recommendations to the School Board (2018-2019):

1. **Communication** - GEAC recommends NPS allocates additional resources to Gifted Education Academic and Rigor Services (GEARS) focused on improving communication/education efforts.
2. **Gifted Referral Benchmark**- GEAC recommends the current NPS gifted referral benchmark be increased from 70% to 90% incrementally over a three-year period.
3. **Centralized Management of Gifted Services**- GEAC recommends centralized oversight of the Gifted Local Plan to insure fidelity of services, versus the current site (school)-based management system.
4. **Guidance Counselor Training / School Counselor Collaboration with Gifted Resource Teachers**- GEAC recommends guidance counselors be mandated to complete gifted education training.
5. **Increased course options**-GEAC recommends NPS increase opportunities for appropriate electives available to targeted students, students, especially within specialty programs geared for gifted/high ability students.

Mrs. Huntoon and Mrs. Stead asked for volunteers to assist with preparing for the March focus group meeting:

The focus of the next meeting will be services. Asked for assistance:

- Read the current local plan
- bring research and articles related to service delivery models such as (academic) talent development, The Schoolwide Enrichment Model, Fairfax County's Young Scholars program, etc. Please present information about these at the meeting.
- Facilitate the focus group discussion- ask questions, take notes

Mrs. Huntoon opened the floor for questions and discussion. Topics included:

- Equity of services- does NPS have unique services for gifted at all levels, especially at secondary? What models do we utilize?
- Is there a drop off in achievement, and what do we do about that? (study skills, social-emotional issues causing underachievement)
- Lack of flexibility in upper elementary

The body was reminded to bring a guest to the next GEAC meeting to participate in the focus group session. An additional link will go out for that session.

New/current member questions: none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.