

NPS Gifted Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2017.

Meeting Room of Barron F. Black Branch Library, Norfolk, Virginia

Attendees:

Jessica Huntoon, Chair, Staff

Louie Jordan, Vice-Chair, Parent

Thomas Ambler, Recording Secretary, Community Member

Vicky Greco, Nominations Chair

Charlos Washington, Parent

Guests:

Tanya Bhasin, NPS School Board Member

Meredith Correia, Staff

Wendy Fatal, Parent

Melissa Washington, Parent

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Jessica Huntoon, Chair. A quorum was noted. Ms. Huntoon welcomed those present. She asked for a review of the June 2017 minutes. There was then a motion by Louie Jordan to approve those minutes as drafted, there was a second and the motion passed.

Ms. Huntoon stated that there had been no contact by members of GEAC expressing interest in the officer positions. The current officers expressed a willingness to continue to serve for the term of the next school year. Vicky Greco moved the approval of the slate of officers to remain as currently stated for the next school year. There was a second and the motion passed.

Ms. Huntoon stated that there would be no September meeting of GEAC. She said that by the October meeting revised by-laws may be provided for consideration. There followed a discussion of how to consider the issue of those members who do not attend meetings on a sufficiently regular basis.

Charlos Washington volunteered to assist Ms. Greco on the Nominations Committee, and without objection, he was placed on that Committee.

Dates were proposed for meetings for the coming school year. Those dates are on an attachment. Louie Jordan moved approval of those dates, there was a second and the motion passed. It is expected that the meetings will be at the Media Center of the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont. Contact will be made with the school to make reservations for the year.

There followed a period of discussion about Ms. Huntoon's draft letter to the NPS School Board. Several suggestions were made, including one that the letter mention GEAC successes. Thomas Ambler moved that GEAC express in a general way its support for Ms. Huntoon's letter. There was a second and the motion passed.

#### SENIOR COORDINATOR REPORT

Although Ms. Tuck had a conflict with the meeting time for this meeting and could not attend, she provided a report.

Ms. Tuck reported that there was a successful Advanced Placement Summer Academy held to introduce about 45 students to the rigor of AP courses. She reported that the Camp Einstein summer program was held this year at the Academy for Discovery at Lakewood. She said there were about 218 students in 11 classes and used nine student volunteers. The program again was a success. Ms. Tuck said that Camp Launch - the two-week residential program at William & Mary for certain students - was also a success.

Ms. Tuck said that NPS expects the Young Scholars program at Rosemont this year will have 45 students in Grade 6, 30 students in Grade 7 and 34 students in Grade 8. The new principal at Rosemont will be Dorie Banks, and the teachers will be Mr. D. Baez, Mrs. B. Butler, Mr. W. Ayniyo and Mrs. M. Langahan. Open communication continues with stakeholders in the program.

Ms. Tuck reported that the gifted department lost 11 positions due to budget cuts, or a reduction of 45 positions to 34 positions. All schools will have a GRT who will be at that school for at least two days each week. There are eight GRTs who are full-time at one school and 19 GRTs who will be at more than one school. No GRT will serve three or more schools. There also will be no William & Mary Saturday enrichment programs for selected Title I schools. The Norstar program continues, but it has been changed to provide longer contact with the students in the program.

Ms. Tuck stated that among the focus or goals for the school year 2017-2018 will be (1) to ensure the gifted learners maximize their potential and develop skills for lifelong learning; (2) to ensure the needs of the twice-exceptional students are met; (3) to provide teachers with effective strategies to meet the needs of the gifted students; (4) to provide students with information about programs and opportunities in the district and also outside that are aimed to meet the needs of the gifted; and (5) to maintain open and continuous communication with all stakeholders.

Ms. Tuck provided the following updated report on identification of gifted students:

2014-2015 1559 referred; 5849 identified; 18% of total NPS students

2015-2016 1778 referred; 6095 identified; 18.9 of total NPS students; and

2016-2017 1554 referred; 6096 identified; 19.3 of total NPS students.

Ms. Tuck stated that in Virginia, the number of students identified gifted is 12.9% of the total number of students, and that in the US, the number of students identified gifted ranges from 6-10%. During the coming year, Ms. Tuck and her staff will be considering the issue of whether there is over-identification of gifted in NPS, and if the answer is yes, potential responses. Ms. Tuck requested that GEAC also consider this issue.

Tom Ambler moved to adjourn the meeting. There was a second and the motion passed. The meeting then adjourned at 7:01 PM.