

NPS Gifted Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2018.

Media Center at the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont, Norfolk, Virginia

Attendees:

Jessica Huntoon, Chair, Staff

Louie Jordan, Vice-Chair, Parent

Thomas Ambler, Recording Secretary, Community Member

Joseph Antolin, Community Member

Baseemah Cumberbatch-Smith, Parent

Vicky Greco, Nominations Chair

Tanya Lewis, Parent

Julie Morgan, Parent

Christina Ohlrogge, Parent

Diane Wishart, Parent

Valerie S. Tuck, Senior Coordinator of Academic Rigor, Ex-Officio, Staff

Guests:

Tanya Bhasin, NPS Board Member

Patty Costis, Staff

Anthony Brunson, Parent

Andrea Disney, Staff

Nicole Sanders, Parent

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Jessica Huntoon, Chair. A quorum was noted. She welcomed those present and introductions of all in attendance occurred. She asked for a review of the February, 2018 minutes. There was then a motion by Louie Jordan to approve those minutes as drafted with one name spelling correction. There was a second and the motion passed.

SENIOR COORDINATOR REPORT

Valerie Tuck opened her report by discussing the Young Scholars program. She said that while that program was originally designed for learners at the 90% level and above in all courses ("GIA"), in 2013-2014, the program was

also opened to those who are gifted in math and/or communication skills. Regardless, all must go through the application process and meet the Young Scholars program requirements. The common application is used; the Young Scholars program has additional requirements. For instance, all those selected must meet the following criteria: 1. Be identified gifted; 2. Have a high academic record; 3. Have a high reading level; 4. Have a high aptitude; 5. Have high teacher recommendations; 6. Have a good attendance record; 7. Have an exceptional interview; and 8. Have no serious discipline issues. With regard to the last item, Ms. Tuck clarified that one with minor issues or one whose issues are quite some time ago still are considered for the program along with others. Ms. Tuck stated that each candidate must provide a project or product for review by those whom select the Young Scholars for the next year.

There are some who apply who are told they do not meet some of the requirements. So, while 227 applied, 127 were invited to interview. Also, not all who qualify are selected. Acceptances to all special middle school programs occur at the same time, and once a student selects a program, that student is removed from all other program lists. Ms. Tuck said that of the 45 who were accepted and decided to attend the program, 38 were GIA, 6 were gifted in communication skills and one was gifted in math. She reported that those who attend come from all parts of the city. She also noted that this year in the Young Scholars Program there are 45 students at the 6th grade class level, 29 at the 7th grade class level and 35 at the 8th grade class level for a total of 109 Young Scholars.

Ms. Tuck said that autonomous learning was a major part of the Young Scholars program. Ms. Tuck discussed how the Young Scholars program integrated with the International Studies ("IS") program, which is also at Rosemont. She said there were four Young Scholar teachers. She said that Young Scholars attend their core classes in their own program, but that they attended electives along with those from the IS program. Thus, while there are two programs at Rosemont, there is one school. Ms. Tuck said that because this was the first year for the Young Scholars program at Rosemont, there had been a need to merge prior classes from Ruffner Middle and Norview Middle.

Ms. Tuck stated that for the Norstar Program, there were 20 applications and 8 were invited to interview.

Ms. Tuck reported that Camp Einstein will again be held this year, from June 25 to July 19 at Tanner Creek Elementary. The price will be the same as last year: \$225.00. The goal is to have 200 students attend. She expects the brochure will be out by April 9.

Ms. Huntoon said that she expected to complete her work soon on her draft message to the School Board. She would then seek input from the members. She planned to send the letter by early in the week of March 11. Ms. Huntoon encouraged members to come to speak to the NPS Board that next week as part of the planned budget hearing. That meeting was expected to occur at 7 PM on March 14.

Ms. Huntoon reported that the next GEAC meeting was expected to occur on April 10, 2018.

It was observed that this was the last meeting for Ms. Tuck, who retires on March 31, 2018. Ms. Tuck did not know when her replacement would be selected, although she knew the process was underway.

In response to a question, Ms. Tuck described Camp Launch, which is a summer program for certain disadvantaged students.

Beseemah Cumberbatch-Smith moved that the meeting adjourned, there was a second and the motion passed. The meeting then adjourned at 7:28 PM for cake in honor of Ms. Tuck's coming retirement.