

Gifted Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) to the Norfolk School Board

November 15th, 2022- Meeting Minutes

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

In attendance:

Members:

Charlene Stewart	Chair, Parent
Dr. Ronald White	Vice Chair, Parent
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS
Dr. Serita Griffin	Secretary, Community
Tom Ambler	Community
Dr. David Courson	Parent
Jessica Huntoon	Parent
Keyona Amos	Parent
Marleen Brewster	Parent
Jennifer Schrader	Parent
Christina Ohlrogge	Parent
Hollis Simodynes	Parent

Guests:

Bruce Brady	Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Dominique Lane	GRT
Al Schneider	Parent

Welcome: Dr. Ronald White called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Review of minutes: Dr. White asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred October 11th, 2022 and were previously provided via email for members to review.

At 6:06, a motion was made to approve the minutes with one amendment/revision. It was seconded and all members were in favor of approving the minutes.

At 6:07 Mrs. Stead began discussing updates on the Cluster Model Concept

- Gifted-Cluster Grouping is a research-based best practice for serving gifted and high ability students who “require special programs to meet their educational needs.” (VDOE, 2012)
- Virginia mandates special programs to meet their educational needs. The Cluster Model Concept serves to meet this requirement.
- Emphasis is being placed on providing services, identifying the right students for the right programs, and implementing a talent pool of emerging scholars.
- One of the GEAC’s goals is to not just serve identified students, but to serve all students in some way.

Highlights of Gifted Cluster Grouping

- Allows teachers to effectively differentiate by reducing the range of achievement levels in a class
- Gifted students experience challenge and make academic progress
- Provides additional services without additional costs

- GRTs and Specialists can provide focused interventions.
- Allows for students to be more comfortable, establish stronger social connections, and have increased motivation
- Clustering gifted students together allows others to emerge as achievers
- Cluster Teacher Training is being offered through William and Mary

At 6:21 Dr. White led a discussion regarding things that were not heard at the last meeting. The goal of the discussion was to determine what the priorities will be for the school year based on the following:

- Recruitment and Retention Success and Areas of Growth
- Data (Demographic, Numbers, Distributions of Talent Pool and Enrollment Data)
- Successes and Areas of Growth (Based on 5-year plan)
- Gifted Resource Teacher perspectives on their training
- Specifics on identification processes for services and programs and roles of parents
- Communication efforts
- Landscape Barriers (Small, Medium, Large)
- Landscape regarding perceptions, attitudes
- Is clustering being offered with fidelity?
- Benefits of clustering (equity and inclusion)

At 6:23 attendees formed groups and discussed the items that they felt should be top priorities for the year.

At 6:45 attendees voted on the top priorities using a tally method.

- **Top priorities**-Data and Communication

Next Action Steps: Create a shared google document to create questions and narrow focus around the top priorities.

Public comment: At 7:16 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 cstewartgeac@gmail.com

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:

- School Board Dates: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>.
 - Nov. 16, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Business Meeting
 - November 17th, 2022 G.E.A.R.S Fall Parent Workshops
 - December 1st (tentative) NPS Showcase of Specialty Programs
 - April 2023-SAT School Day

REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES:

- December 2022 - No Meeting
- Tuesday, January 10 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
- Tuesday, February 14 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
- Tuesday March 14 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
- Tuesday April 4* @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
 - *Please note date change to the first Tuesday in April due to NPS Spring Break: April 10-14

- Tuesday May 9 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
- Tuesday, June 6 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood

Members may submit agenda items via email to Ms. Stewart or Dr. White.

Dr. White adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.