

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

March 8, 2022- Meeting Minutes DRAFT

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing due to the emergency presented by the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to and in compliance with Norfolk City Ordinance 48.161. The public is invited to participate by providing comments in emails to the Co-Chairs or Gifted Education and Academic Rigor Services Department (GEARS) in advance of the meeting or by phone or video via Zoom.

In attendance:

Members:

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| Vicky Greco | Co-Chair, Parent |
| Jessica Huntoon | Co-Chair, Parent |
| Dr. Jori Beck | Co-Vice Chair, Community |
| Dr. Maury Howard | Co-Vice Chair, Parent |
| Hollis Simodynes | Secretary, Parent |
| Tom Ambler | Community |
| Jennifer Martin | Parent |
| Dr. Karen Nelson | Gifted Resource Teacher |
| Christina Ohlrogge | Parent |
| Kathleen Shambo | Teacher at Southside STEM Academy |
| Karla Stead | Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS |
| Dr. Andrew Sytsma | Gifted Resource Teacher |
| Abbie Watson | Principal Academy for Discovery at Lakewood |

Guests:

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| Bruce Brady | Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, NPS |
| Bill Butler | Parent |
| Serita Griffin | Community/Teacher |
| Kelly Maher | Parent |
| Marlene Mallory | Parent |
| Jennifer Schrader | Parent |
| Charlene Stewart | Parent |

Welcome: Ms. Vicky Greco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and read the purpose of GEAC. Our purpose is primarily two-fold: to review annually the local plan for the education of gifted students and to determine the extent to which the plan for the previous year was implemented. GEAC's findings and recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the annual program, submitted annually in writing to the School Board and Superintendent, will be completed by June 15, 2022. Our responsibilities as GEAC members also include representing our school community, collaborating with staff and our community, focusing attention on division-wide gifted education issues, and keeping informed of new information, current research and best practices in gifted education.

Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves until 6:10.

Review of minutes: At 6:10, Ms. Greco asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred February 8, 2022, and were previously provided via email for members to review. Typographical corrections were made.

At 6:10, Tom Ambler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. It was seconded and all members were in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

Announcements: Ms. Greco noted the upcoming school board meeting information, available at:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>

- Wed Mar 9@10 am & Thurs Mar 10@ 6 pm, 5-Year Strategic Plan Zooms, Register/more info: npsk12.com/strategicplanning
- Wed, Mar 9 at 6 pm - Virtual Parent Workshop: Anxiety and Stress in Gifted Adolescents
<https://www.npsk12.com/cms/lib/VA02208074/Centricity/ModuleInstance/62/Parent%20PD%20flyer%20-%202022%20Anxiety%20%20Stress.pdf>

Public comment: At 6:13, Ms. Greco 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 co-chair @ studentsfirstvmg@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 or during the meeting.

Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) Update: Ms. Stead announced:

- The local plan is our strategic plan that is mandated by the VDOE and is revised every five years.
- Revised Gifted Local Plan starts to take effect after the universal screening in February 2022. There will be First Grade Universal Screening under the new local plan including revised benchmarks, emerging scholars services available to top 15% scorers in every school, and increased focus on enrichment and exposure for all students.
- Gifted Family Engagement nights, to increase parent involvement, are planned for the spring. The events will take place outdoors, and have tables with enrichment activities, e.g. "Find Your Inner Genius". La'Eunice Brown is the new community engagement coordinator.

Local Plan Oversight Discussion and Planning.

At 6:30, Ms. Huntoon shared a link to a working document developed in the breakout session of the last (February 8) meeting.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QmBXiHxB96YLc2Zn0yYRvIQ_IX-B_5GBLOoWJw13yEs/edit?usp=sharing

Ms. Huntoon began with a summary of the small group discussions from the January and February meetings, noting that they would be incorporated into the Annual Report, due to the School Board by June 15.

Tonight, she asked meeting attendees to draft recommendations to the school board and or administration. She stated they could look at the local plan and then make recommendations that will benefit the district as a whole.

Attendees broke into smaller groups, and returned at 7:05. The participants ranked the recommendations discussed at the last meeting in order of priority. The groups provided short summaries of the information they discussed, which is all saved on the shared spreadsheet linked above.

Membership Report Discussion/ COMMITTEE CLOSED SESSION

REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES: April 5; May 10; and June 7.

GEAC meetings will be conducted virtually until further notice. The next meeting is Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6 p.m. Members may submit agenda items via email to Ms. Greco and/or Ms. Huntoon.