

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

September 13, 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:

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
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS
Tom Ambler	Community
Christina Ohlrogge	Parent
Charlene Stewart	Parent
Dr. Serita Griffin	Community
Dr. David Courson	Parent
Jennifer Schrader	Parent
Shakara Lawrence	GRT
Natalie West	Parent
Keyona Amos	Parent
Martha Breslin	Parent

Guests:

Leslie Cullinan	GRT
Michelle Lewis	GRT

Welcome: Ms. Vicky Greco called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. She also reminded everyone that membership is not a prerequisite to attend the meetings, all are welcome.

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

Review of minutes: Ms. Greco asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred June 7, 2022, and were previously provided via email for members to review. Typographical corrections were made.

At 6:12, a motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. It was seconded and all members were in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

Announcements:

- School Board Dates: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>.
 - Sept. 14, 2022, School Board Governance Training (12 p.m.) & Work Session (4 p.m.)
 - Sept. 21, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Business Meeting
 - Oct. 5, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Work Session/School Board Governance Training
 - Oct. 26, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Business Meeting

- Nov. 2, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Work Session/School Board Governance Training
- Nov. 16, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Business Meeting

Public comment: At 6:11, 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 the meeting.

Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) Update: At 6:18 Ms. Stead announced the following:

- Governor's School for the Arts Events
 - Oct. 11th, 6:30 PM: Virtual Meet GSA/Information Session
 - Oct. 26th, 6 PM: GSA Open House for all interested parents and students
 - Visit the GEARS Website to download flyers: <https://www.npsk12.com/GEARS>
- Local Gifted Ed Plan:
 - https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://www.npsk12.com/cms/lib/VA02208074/Centrality/Domain/717/NPS+Gifted+Local+Plan+2022-27_Signed.pdf
 - Ms. Stead explained that the Local Gifted Plan is a state-mandated document that describes how districts provide gifted services. The 2022-2027 Local Gifted Plan includes a talent pool initiative to improve equity and consistency throughout the school division. The plan includes professional development (PD) opportunities for faculty and specific PD requirements for GRTs. The overall intent of the plan is to concentrate more on services, and provide more opportunity for children with a talent pool, clustering in elementary schools, and the ability for students to explore their interests in clubs and other after-school opportunities.
 - The purpose of GEAC is 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, 2023.
 - There is a First Grade Universal Screening under the 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.
 - The College of William and Mary will continue to collaborate with NPS and assist in further PD and the development of evaluation mechanisms to assess the efficacy of gifted services.
 - GRTs have been asked to solicit proposals at their schools for after school enrichment programs. NPS faculty are being offered a stipend to develop and oversee after school enrichment programs. The programs will begin as early as October. It was asked whether community members could volunteer or receive a stipend but that is not yet available as the program is not yet fully developed. It was noted that the enrichment programs would be similar to Camp Einstein. <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/14520>
 - The initial focus of enhancements is at the elementary level, but the long-term goal is to provide more services in secondary schools.

Election of 2022-23 GEAC Officers

- Dr. Jori Beck announced the slate of officers and that nominations would be accepted from the floor:
 - Chair/Co-Chairs: Ms. Charlene Stewart
 - Vice Chair/Co-Vice Chairs: Dr. Ronald White
 - Recording Secretary/Co-Secretaries Dr. Serita Griffin, Ms. Natalie West

The slate of 2022-2023 GEAC Officers was elected by unanimous vote.

- A Community Outreach Subcommittee was formed of Dr's. Maury Howard and David Courson.

REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES:

- Tuesday, October 11 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
- Tuesday, November 15* @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
 - *Please note date change to the third Tuesday due to Election Day on November 8
- 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.

Ms. Greco adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.