

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

### May 10, 2022- Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held at Academy for Discovery at Lakewood 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

##### Guests:

Marleen Mallory	Parent
Shakara Lawrence	GRT
Kelly Maher	Parent
Billy Bert Davis	GRT
Abbie Watson	Principal Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
Dr. Ronald White	Parent

**Welcome:** Ms. Vicky Greco called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 6:09, Ms. Greco asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred April 5, 2022, and were previously provided via email for members to review. Typographical corrections were made.

At 6:10, 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:** At 6:11, Ms. Greco reminded everyone that membership is not a pre-requisite to attend the meetings, all are welcome.

**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](mailto: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:** Ms. Stead announced the following:

- All future GEAC meetings will be in person, virtual meetings are no longer authorized.
- 1st Annual Spring Fest: Embrace Your Inner Genius, Thursday, May 12, 5-6 pm (see flyer) Southside Stem Academy at Campostella, 1136 Campostella Road Norfolk, VA 23523
- GEAC Membership Timeline
- Local Gifted Ed Plan - Year 1 Goals, update on technical review process conducted by the Virginia Department of Education
- NPS Summer Programs <https://www.npsk12.com/summer-school>

Ms. Stead stated that an addendum was added to the Local Gifted Plan in order to clarify the process of identifying students for gifted services, specifically the process to bring in additional criteria for consideration when a student's test scores alone do not indicate a requirement for gifted services. The reason to bring in additional criteria is to ensure equity and representation and is in keeping with the talent pool model in the gifted plan. Young Scholars is the only all-gifted program in Norfolk Public Schools and there are only 40 seats available. In the current class, there were applicants from 28 schools, students were accepted from 18 schools and two students were military transfers.

Training will take place this summer for teachers on how to identify gifted students. Although the hiring of five additional Gifted Resource Teachers (GRT) have been approved, the positions remain unfunded. There are currently approximately 200-650 identified gifted students assigned to each secondary school GRT.

At 6:30 Dr. White said he understood the tier system for identifying gifted students, which begins with test scores and include parent and teacher input, observations, student work and interviews. He asked whether creativity and persistence were taken into account when identifying students. Ms. Stead those were difficulty to quantify but she understood Dr. White's point. He stated that we need to involve people of color in the identification process so that we can break down barriers or mis-perceptions of what a gifted student looks like. Ms. Stead reminded the group of NPS's "Drive for Five"

"Five Goals for Achieving Equity and Excellence for All..."

- First, we will work to improve students' academic performance and we will work to integrate social-emotional learning into daily instruction.
- Second, we will attract and retain highly qualified, effective teachers to teach our students.
- Third, we will commit to improving our aging infrastructure so that our students are educated in school buildings that are worthy of them.
- Fourth, we will be more purposeful and strategic in developing and sustaining effective partnerships with our families and other community stakeholders.
- Fifth, we will be more intentional in our efforts to foster a division-wide culture of caring.

## **Local Plan Oversight Discussion and Planning.**

At 6:38, Ms. Huntoon shared a link to a working document developed in the breakout session of the last (April 5, 2022) meeting.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QmBXiHxB96YLc2Zn0yYRvIQ\\_IX-B\\_5GBLOoWJw13yEs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QmBXiHxB96YLc2Zn0yYRvIQ_IX-B_5GBLOoWJw13yEs/edit?usp=sharing)

Ms. Huntoon began with an explanation of the document including the six objectives listed in the document. Tonight, she asked meeting attendees to rank the draft recommendations within each objective. The board report is due June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Attendees broke into smaller groups to discuss final recommendations to be included in our recommendations to the school board.

**REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES:** June 7, 2022 at Academy for Discovery at Lakewood.

Members may submit agenda items via email to Ms. Greco and/or Ms. Huntoon.

Ms. Greco adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.