

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

## January 11, 2022- Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing due to the emergency represented by the spread of COVID-19, pursuant to and in compliance with Norfolk City Ordinance 48,161. The public was invited to participate as well by providing their comments in an email to the GEAC Co-Chairs or Gifted Education and Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) in advance of the meeting or by phone or video via Zoom.

### In attendance:

#### Members:

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

#### Guests:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Bruce Brady      | Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, NPS |
| Bill Butler      | Parent  |
| Kimberly Walsh   | Gifted Resource Teacher                               |
| Christopher Webb | Parent  |

**Welcome:** Ms. Jessica Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 of the annual program effectiveness and recommendations will be submitted annually in writing to the school board and division superintendent. 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 from 6:05-6:09.

**Review of minutes:** At 6:10, Ms. Huntoon asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred on November 9, 2021, and were previously provided via email for members to review. One typographical corrections was made.

At 6:11, 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. Huntoon noted the upcoming school board meeting information, available at:

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

- Jan. 12, 2022, Work Session, 4 pm - Dr. Leon Rouson was sworn in for Ward 4 Board seat in December but tomorrow's meeting would include his public swearing-in ceremony. Agenda also

includes updates on staff Covid vaccine mandate and Governor's Budget, as well as review of School Resource Officer (SRO) program evaluation.

- Jan. 19, 2022, School Board Governance Training (2 p.m.-5 p.m.), Closed Executive Session (5 p.m.), Business Meeting (7:00 p.m.), School Administration Building, 12th floor, Board Room.
- Feb. 2, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Work Session
- Feb. 4, 2022, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. School Board Mid-Year Retreat (School Board Room)
- Feb. 16, 2022, 4 p.m., School Board Business Meeting

**Public comment:** At 6:12, Ms. Huntoon 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:

- Revised Gifted Local Plan Technical Review
- College of Williams and Mary Consulting has been ongoing since November 2021. Currently they are focusing on messaging to stakeholders and on teacher professional development.
- Young Scholars Information Session January 12 at 6 p.m.
- Specialty Programs Applications process
- 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.

**GEAC Recruitment, Engagement and Advocacy:** Ms. Huntoon announced:

- Application Window: January 15 – March 1, Vetting by Committee deadline Friday, April 1
- Application: <https://www.npsk12.com/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=134>
- GEAC will review applications and membership roster and vote on recommendations regarding applicants and inactive members at the next GEAC meeting in advance of review and decisions on new appointments and removals by Ms. Stead and Dr. Pohl to the School Board
- The board will discuss GEAC recommendations in the April Work Meeting/Closed Session and will vote on appointments/removals at April Business Meeting
- REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES: 8 February, 8 March, April 5; May 10; and June 7

**GEAC Budget and Priorities Advocacy**

- Next Budget Hearing meeting: Wednesday, March 2
- Annual Report due to School Board by Wednesday, June 15

**Local Plan Oversight Discussion and Planning.**

Ms. Huntoon asked the attendees to help develop a “wish list” for data collection and identify data points that we think might help measure the effectiveness of the local plan, per our purpose. Ms. Stead provided examples of data that could be used to measure effectiveness of the Local Gifted Plan and the attendees broke into small groups for discussion.

[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)

At 7:20 the breakout groups returned to the main group.

There was discussion about how the collaboration session went. One parent raised the issue of the multiple communication platforms utilized within NPS (e.g. Canvas, ParentVUE/Synergy, ClassDojo, email). It was explained that the intent is to ensure parent engagement by targeting different populations with different ways of communication.

At 7:30 Ms Huntoon said that at the next GEAC meeting, we can refine the list of data we feel will help with assessing the implementation of the local plan.

GEAC meetings will be conducted virtually until further notice. The next meeting is Tuesday February 8, 2022 at 6 p.m. Members may submit agenda items via email to Ms. Greco and/or Ms. Huntoon.

At 7:33, a motion to adjourn was made, which was seconded. Ms. Huntoon adjourned the meeting at 7:33.