

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Members:

Jessica Huntoon	Chair, Parent
Dr. Patricia Costis	Gifted Resource Teacher, Recording Secretary
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor
Vicky Greco	Parent, Nominating Chair
Christina Ohlrogge	Parent
Lewis Jordan	Community
Tom Ambler	Community
Katie Humphrey-Morgan	Gifted Resource Teacher

Guests:

Bruce Brady	Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Kim Walsh	Gifted Resource Teacher
Abbie Watson	Principal, Academy of Discovery @ Lakewood
Laura Ahmadi	Parent
Maury Howard	Parent
Jori Beck	Community

Mrs. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Review of Meeting Norms: meeting norms were not reviewed.

Review of meeting minutes: This was the first meeting of the 2020-2021 school year. No meeting minutes were reviewed.

Public Comment: Mrs. Stead noted the public comment portion of each GEAC meeting, wherein stakeholders may speak to the GEAC on the topic of their choice. Stakeholders may also choose to complete a form to submit questions, concerns, and comments in writing.

Old Business

Senior Coordinator’s Report

Mrs. Stead welcomed all those present, described what GEAC is and its role in Norfolk Public Schools.

- Encouraged new attendees to apply, and current members to re-apply via the School Board Advisory Committee application. <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/14631> The deadline is December 9, 2020.
 - Applications are for voting members of GEAC. Stakeholders do not have to be GEAC members to attend meetings.
 - 24 total seats are available and include parents, teachers, administrators, community members.
 - If interested in an officer’s role, contact Vicky Greco at vicky.m.greco@gmail.com
- Become familiar with the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted in NPS. <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/10011>

Mrs. Stead described the most recent work of GEAC: a needs assessment conducted by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary.

- Drs. Tracy and Jennifer Cross from William and Mary presented their findings to the School Board on December 2, 2020. The PowerPoint and the needs assessment report are available online.
 - All are strongly encouraged to read the report <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public#>

- view the School Board presentation video recording https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJkCBujRQwOFwHwxEET-2POv3Qq0OG_91
- and view the PowerPoint. <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public#>

Discussion on the Needs Assessment followed

New Business

Discussion regarding the GEAC meeting day and time. Currently, meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:30 pm. Discussion surrounded changing the date.

- Mrs. Greco moved that we change the GEAC meeting date to the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:30 pm. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

Discussion regarding gifted identification timeline and protocol. Topics included:

- Why does it take so long for students to be tested, identified and begin receiving services (nearly a full school year or more)?
- How do we identify students returning from private or homeschool after NPS returns to in-person classes?
- How can identified gifted students receive gifted services better and/or more often?
- How can services be increased for gifted high school students?
 - Specialty programs are not gifted programs

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Formal Recommendations to the School Board (2018-2019)

Recommendation #1: Communication - GEAC recommends NPS allocates additional resources to Gifted Education Academic and Rigor Services (GEARS) focused on improving communication/education efforts.

Recommendation #2: Gifted Referral Benchmark- GEAC recommends the current NPS gifted referral benchmark be increased from 70% to 90% incrementally over a three-year period.

Recommendation #3: Centralized Management of Gifted Services- GEAC recommends centralized oversight of the Gifted Local Plan to insure fidelity of services, versus the current site (school)-based management system.

Recommendation # 4: Guidance Counselor Training / School Counselor Collaboration with Gifted Resource Teachers- GEAC recommends guidance counselors be mandated to complete gifted education training.

Recommendation # 5: Increased course options-GEAC recommends NPS increase opportunities for appropriate electives available to targeted students, students, especially within specialty programs geared for gifted/high ability students.