

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

April 5, 2022- Meeting Minutes

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 |
| Tom Ambler | Community |
| Dr. Karen Nelson | Gifted Resource Teacher |
| Karla Stead | Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS |
| Abbie Watson | Principal Academy for Discovery at Lakewood |
| Sarah Martins | Member |

Guests:

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| Marlene Mallory | Parent |
| Charlene Stewart | Parent |
| Billy Bert Davis | GRT |
| Keyona Amos | Parent |
| Dr. Ronald White | Parent |
| Natalie West | |

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 6:11, Ms. Greco asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which occurred March 8, 2022, and were previously provided via email for members to review. Typographical corrections were made.

At 6:11, Karla Stead 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: At 6:12, Ms. Greco noted the upcoming school board meeting information, available at:

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

- Wed April 6, 2022 School Board Work Session, 4 pm, discussions to include:
* NPS Volunteer Program Update *Quarter 3 Grades and Chronic Absenteeism

Public comment: At 6:14, 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.

Dr. White noted that his son's school released the Camp Einstein activities and he was impressed with the offerings.

Ms. Amos is having trouble getting answers about the gifted program and wondered if there is anyone on site at Coleman Place Elementary School to assist? And when are kids assessed? Ms. Stead noted that there is a part-time GRT who she will connect with Ms. Amos.

Gifted Education & Academic Rigor Services (GEARS) Update: At 6:20, Ms. Stead announced the following:

- 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
- NSP Specialty Programs
- GEAC Membership Timeline
- Local Gifted Ed Plan - Year 1 Goals

Dr. White asked if NPS uses the non-verbal version of the COGAT (NNAT), and Ms. Stead noted that NPS uses the three COGAT batteries in addition to other data points including parent input. Dr. White also asked about the resource distribution at various schools. Ms. Stead clarified that some schools have only part-time GRTs and some schools don't do after-school programming due to resources and funding. Dr. White also asked why principals recommend teachers? There could be bias. Ms. Stead explained that this is new as part of the clustering process, and there is collaboration with the teacher in negotiating this. Dr. White encouraged GEAC to partner with universities—especially HBCUs—so that we can prepare teachers (especially teachers of color) to identify gifted children.

Charlene Stewart asked if the pandemic was affecting getting cluster teachers. Ms. Stead noted that gifted services often is not prioritized, and it's a constant competition for funds. There should be more funding for gifted education, as gifted services are good for everyone.

Local Plan Oversight Discussion and Planning.

At 6:58, Ms. Huntoon shared a link to a working document developed in the breakout session of the last (March 8) meeting.

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 15th.

Attendees broke into smaller groups, and returned at 7:02. The participants went into breakout rooms to discuss and rank the draft recommendations. Participants returned from breakout rooms at 7:32. Next meeting members will write draft recommendations.

New Business/Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Hollis Simodynes and Christina Ohlrogge have volunteered for the report subcommittee.

Subcommittee members are needed for the nominating committee.

Next meeting will be all in person without a hybrid option. Ms. Greco will send a reminder about the in-person meeting ahead of the May 10th meeting.

REMAINING 2022 GEAC MEETING DATES: IN PERSON MEETING at Academy for Discovery (ADL) Media Center May 10; and June 7.

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

Ms. Greco adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.