

NPS Gifted Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2018.

Media Center at the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont, Norfolk, Virginia

Attendees:

Jessica Huntoon, Chair, Staff

Louie Jordan, Vice-Chair, Parent

Thomas Ambler, Recording Secretary, Community Member

Joseph Antolin, Community Member

Baseemah Cumberbatch-Smith, Parent

Vicky Greco, Nominations Chair

Nate Kinnison, Parent

Julie Morgan, Parent

Christina Ohlrogge, Parent

Diane Wishart, Parent

Valerie S. Tuck, Senior Coordinator of Academic Rigor, Ex-Officio, Staff

Guests:

Tanya Bhasin, NPS Board Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Jessica Huntoon, Chair. A quorum was noted. She welcomed those present and introductions of all in attendance occurred. She asked for a review of the December, 2017 minutes. There was then a motion by Diane Wishart to approve those minutes as drafted. There was a second and the motion passed.

Ms. Huntoon reported that she planned to write a mid-school-year letter to the NPS School Board. She sought input on topics. Among the issues she plans to mention are that GEAC awaits the results of the current survey and the issue of the best threshold for use in gifted identification tests. Ms. Huntoon will also mention that GEAC favors having the name "gifted" in the education department that covers that issue and also that GEAC will expect to be a part of the next Gifted Plan preparation. Ms. Huntoon encouraged those present to attend and speak about gifted education at NPS School Board meetings. Ms. Huntoon also encouraged all who are members of GEAC to consider being an officer during the next school year (2018-2019).

SENIOR COORDINATOR REPORT

Valerie Tuck reported that universal first grade gifted testing would occur during the middle of the month of February. She said that training had been given for that testing to Gifted Resource Teachers as well as testing chairs. Also, GRTs will work with first graders to be sure they understand the testing format for the test. Ms. Tuck expects that by June notice will be given to parents of those students who are identified as gifted.

Ms. Tuck reported that 46 applications to the Summer Residential Governors School had been received from all NPS high schools, which represents an increase from all schools. 34 applications were sent on to Richmond. She stated that based on past results, about 7 students will be chosen. Ms. Tuck also said that the Courtroom Law activity was beginning, with the semi-finals set for April 19 and the finals for April 26. Ms. Tuck also stated that Camp Launch was expanding this summer to 15 students from eight schools. Camp Launch seeks to provide enrichment for at-risk gifted learners and college preparation work. Ms. Tuck also informed the membership that Camp Einstein will again occur this summer with no increase in cost. Sponsors and proposals are now being sought.

Ms. Tuck said that she did not expect to see an increase in the threshold used for testing scores for gifted identification. Instead, the concept will be considered by a group of high-level administrators, as this was viewed as a subject requiring more discussion. If a change is made, it would require NPS School Board approval. There followed a great deal of discussion about this topic and on gifted education issues in general. During the discussion, the membership said that having at least one GRT at a GEAC meeting was helpful.

Then, Diane Wishart moved that "GEAC requests a joint meeting with the NPS School Board at least once a year." There was a second and the motion passed.

Prior to the end of the meeting, Ms. Tuck informed the membership that she would retire on April 1, 2018. This was met with surprise and favorable words.

Mr. Ambler moved to adjourn the meeting. There was a second and the motion passed. The meeting then adjourned at 7:20 PM.