

NPS Gifted Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2017.

Media Center of the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont

Attendees:

Jessica Huntoon, Chair, Staff

Louie Jordan, Vice-Chair, Parent

Thomas Ambler, Recording Secretary, Community Member

Vicky Greco, Nominations Chair

Nate Kinnison, Parent

Julie Morgan, Parent

Valerie Tuck, Senior Coordinator, Academic Rigor

Guests:

Tanya Bhasin, NPS School Board Member

Joseph Antolin, Parent

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Jessica Huntoon, Chair. A quorum was noted. Ms. Huntoon welcomed those present. She asked for a review of the May 2017 minutes. There was then a motion by Vicky Greco to approve those minutes as drafted, there was a second and the motion passed. She said the following are items for work by GEAC either at during the meeting or in the coming months: (i) the need for a slate of officers for GEAC for the year 2017-2018; (ii) the annual letter by the Chair of GEAC to the School Board on the state of gifted in NPS; (iii) consideration of a gifted survey for parents and/or for staff; (iv) consideration of how to seek and handle approval of new GEAC members; and (v) the school board budget and how it will impact gifted education.

There following a discussion about the surveys. The staff survey is already being process for use by NPS. The parent survey still requires work. After more discussion, it was decided to continue work on the parent survey, looking towards the next school year.

SENIOR COORDINATOR REPORT

Ms. Tuck provided the following report on identification of gifted students:

2014-2015 64% ID'd; 1624 referred; 1042 designated gifted;

2015-2016 64% ID'd; 1666 referred; 1042 designated gifted; and

2016-2017 56% ID'd; 1413 referred; 856 designated gifted.

Ms. Tuck additionally reported on this topic that it is important to review the portfolio to ensure that a gifted designation is done in an objective way. She also said that it is important to continue to have professional development for Gifted Resource Teachers on the identification subject. On a related topic, Ms. Tuck reported that the on-line testing for first grade students overall was a success. While as with any new approach, there were issues to be handled, the testing was viewed positively.

Ms. Tuck reported that a team from Bayview was the number one 5th grade team in the nation for Wordmasters. A 4th grade team from the same school was #2. There also were state rankings for Future Problem-Solving teams from the Academy at Lakewood and at Lake Taylor Middle School. Additionally, she also reported that the courtroom law finals were held at Academy at Lakewood and the whole program was a great success.

Ms. Tuck reported that 14 students were selected to attend various Governors Schools around the state during the summer.

Ms. Tuck said there would be a meeting on June 14 at Rosemont for those attending the Young Scholars program during the next school year. She said that there had generally been a favorable reaction to the change which will combine the current Ruffner and Norview Young Scholar programs at Rosemont next school year.

Ms. Tuck stated that Camp Launch at William and Mary for certain at-risk grades 6-8 gifted students will again include students from Norfolk. There are students in the program from all NPS middle schools. The program will extend from July 16 to July 29. NPS will provide transportation to those selected.

Ms. Tuck mentioned that Camp Einstein will run from July 10 to August 3. She reported that as of June 6, there are 213 enrolled, with some attending via scholarship. The goal with this program is to have it be one that breaks even.

Ms. Tuck said that the class for next year for Norstar has been selected.

Ms. Huntoon reported that she expected that she will soon draft the letter to the School Board. She said she expected it might mention (i) funding issues; (ii) budget issues (which as of the date of the meeting was still in limbo); (iii) a request to be sure that GEAC has a chance to comment on any review of or changes to gifted education in Norfolk; (iv) the surveys; (v) the Young Scholar program; (vi) membership processes; and (vii) goals for GEAC for the next year and accomplishments of the past year.

Ms. Huntoon encouraged any member who wished to be considered for an officer position to notify Ms. Greco about such interest. She also thanked Nate Kinnison for his willingness to help on GEAC "marketing" issues.

Tom Ambler moved to adjourn the meeting. There was a second and the motion passed. The meeting then adjourned at 7:17 PM.