

NPS Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 4, 2015

Media Center, Academy of International Studies at Rosemont, 1330 Branch Road, Norfolk,
VA

Attendees:

GEAC: Tanya Bhasin, Chair, Parent (Taylor Elementary School)

Heather Adams, Vice Chair and Acting Chair, Parent (Ruffner YS, Granby IB)

Tom Ambler, Acting Recording Secretary, Community Member

Donna Tate, Grandparent, (Ghent School)

Lynnell Gibson, Principal, (Academy International Studies (AIS) at Rosemont)

Valerie Tuck, Senior Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor

Norika Stuvaints, Parent (Academy International Studies at Rosemont)

Tanya Lewis, Parent (Poplar Halls Elementary)

Jessica Huntoon, Staff (Lakewood MS)

Vickie Greco, Parent, (Larchmont Elementary, Academy International Studies at Rosemont and Maury HS)

GUESTS:

Louie Jordan, Parent (Blair MS)

Andrew Fox (Ruffner YS, Taylor Elementary)

REPORT:

At 6:06 pm Ms. Adams called the meeting to order. She stated that because GEAC Chair Tanya Bhasin was not able to be there at the start of the meeting due to her need to be at a NPS School Board-related location (as Ms. Bhasin was appointed to the NPS School Board in late June, 2015), Ms. Adams would (per the GEAC by-laws) take the role of Chair for the meeting. (Although Ms. Bhasin later arrived, Ms. Adams continued to be the Chair for the meeting.) Ms. Adams said that Recording Secretary Basseemah Cumberbatch-Smith was away and that there was a need for someone to keep a record of the meeting. Ms. Huntoon moved that Tom Ambler be elected as Acting Recording Secretary, there was a second and

the motion passed. Ms. Adams stated that a quorum as present. Ms. Adams welcomed all and asked that all present introduce themselves.

Old business:

Ms. Greco moved that the June 1, 2015 draft meeting minutes (with a minor correction) be approved. There was a second and the motion passed.

Elections: Ms. Adams stated that due to Ms. Bhasin's recent election to the NPS School Board, there may be officer changes, but that no action would take place at this meeting.

New Business

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Adams prepared a written list of possible topics for meetings during the year, and the same was provided to those present. She based topic suggestions upon what is normally done at that time of year from a school and gifted perspective. She said that this list was intended to spark discussion and could change.

This caused a discussion about how information about GEAC was given both to newly identified gifted children and their parents as well as all gifted children and parents. After some discussion, Ms. Huntoon agreed to draft possible postcard about GEAC to all gifted students. It is possible there may also be a letter drafted to be sent by the GEAC Chair to all newly identified gifted students.

There was a discussion about a possible September meeting, and how it may conflict with staff preparations for the school year. The result is that while there may be an officer meeting in early September, the next general GEAC meeting will be the first Tuesday in October.

There was a long discussion about what might be discussed at the various meetings during the year, and whether GEAC might in some cases invite certain individuals to come to the meeting - who might also possibly provide a short presentation on a gifted-related topic.

Senior Coordinator's Report

Ms. Tuck said that nearly all gifted-related staff positions are filled for the coming school year, and expects to have the balance filled by the time all staff report to work in late August.

Ms. Tuck discussed the 2015 AP results. While at the results were okay at Norview, Granby and Maury, and not as good at BT Washington and Lake Taylor, improvement was needed at all of the high schools. Ms. Tuck said the following things can be done to improve the results (1) Training; (2) Vertical teaming; (3) Tutoring; (4) Seek school-wide support for AP test-taking; and (5) Seek to have Gifted Resource Teachers support AP teachers.

Ms. Tuck reported a successful Project Launch summer program for certain NPS students at William & Mary.

Ms. Tuck said that NPS was proud that certain high school students were able to be a part of various Governor Schools. These are summer residential schools at various locations in the state. Attendance from the Norfolk high schools was as follows: BT Washington 4; Granby 2; Maury 2; Norview 9 and Lake Taylor 0. These numbers and the prior AP report resulted in a long discussion about AP and what might be done to improve the results at all schools.

Ms. Tuck said that there would be training for Young Scholar teachers conducted by George Betts. Mr. Betts is known for his work on the autonomous learning model. There would also be other training for all Gifted Resource Teachers in late August.

Ms. Tuck sought volunteers from GEAC who would help with work on the Local Plan review. The NPS Local Plan is due in September, 2016. She said she welcomed input from parents, teachers and administrators.

Mr. Ambler moved to adjourn, there was a second and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Submitted by

Thomas W. Ambler, Acting Recording Secretary