Minutes
York County School Division
Gifted Education Advisory Committee
October 15, 2013
7:00 in the YCSD School Board Office Round Room

The meeting was called to order by Marybeth Young and introductions were made.

Committee Members in Attendance:
Patty Mastracci – York High School
Jane Roithmayr – Community Member
Pam Abercrombie – Yorktown Elementary School
Candi Skinner – School Board Office
Sandy Hespe – Instructional Specialist
Angie Jones – Seaford Elementary School
Sarah Haywood – EXTEND Center
Dana Kadolph – Grafton Bethel Elementary School
Bjork Jonasdottir – Guidance Counselor, Queens Lake Middle School
Melissa Kashy – Guidance Director, Grafton High School
Cam Steele – Dare Elementary School
Jennifer George – Tabb Middle School
Marybeth Young – Tabb High School
Elizabeth O’Brien – Yorktown Middle School
Sarah Kueser – Waller Mill Elementary School
Wendy Learn – Mount Vernon Elementary School
Colleen Brush – Grafton High School
Kristen Falk – Coventry Elementary School
Tammy Rosario – CES and GMS parent

Secondary Guidance Presentation – Bjork Jonasdottir and Melissa Kashy

The presentation included information on the options available for middle and high school students. A new state requirement will be implemented in the spring with a six-year plan for all students from grades 7 – 12. Parents will be involved in course selection. All students in the Honors Program and advanced math classes will be invited to the pre-admissions series for the Governor’s School. Students must be in Algebra I in the seventh grade to be eligible for the engineering strand at the Governor’s School. One of the new graduation requirements is that all students take one virtual class in high school. The Economics and Personal Finance class is also required.

National Honor Society requires outside activities and leadership, not just a good GPA. The summer residential Governor’s School program is for rising 10th and 11th graders and student’s can only attend one summer. The program is competitive and students live on a college campus for one month.
Secretary's Report - Patty Mastracci

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the June 4, 2013 meeting as written.

Treasurer’s Report – Elizabeth O’Brien

It was voted upon to again provide the teachers with $100 each to purchase classroom supplies. T-shirts will be made available for purchase again using the same design as last year. A suggestion was made to possibly hold a penny harvest contest among PEP and EXTEND classes at the center.

Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

Fifty transfer students were tested in August and another 76 students were tested last week. Enrollment is currently similar to last year’s numbers but expected to rise as the year continues. A parent orientation session on September 10 was well attended and another will be held in early November at the start of the second quarter. The gifted resource teachers will attend the VAG Conference in Williamsburg and there is also a Parent Day on October 19. More information is available at www.vagifted.org. Many professional training opportunities have been implemented while working toward the goals of the gifted plan. In August, Mary Slade came to work with teachers on differentiation and in October Dr. Tracy Cross met with guidance counselors. The counselors were provided with a list of the gifted students in their schools and asked to check into whether or not the students are taking advantage of the opportunities for advanced classes offered in YCSD. In December they will meet again to hear Dr. Goff speak on underachieving gifted students. In November, high school teachers will participate in training about the characteristics of gifted students. In January, Mary Ann Carr will meet again with teachers and also will speak in the evening at the January GEAC meeting.

Last May, the Gifted “Standard Operating Procedures” were approved and put in place. There will be a Governor’s School information session on December 10 at GHS. OM has twelve teams competing this year and will take place March 29 at THS.

Old Business – Marybeth Young

All committee members were provided a copy of the annual review letter via e-mail. Volunteers will be needed again towards the end of the school year to work on this year’s letter.

New Business – Marybeth Young

The annual parent information letter was sent to parents to inform them of programs and the purpose of GEAC. The Local Plan for Gifted Education needs updating to reflect changes to testing cycles and the appeals process. One section of the gifted plan that needs more work involves Parent and Community Involvement. The idea is to get GEAC more involved in gifted education in the county.

There were no parent concerns or comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48.

Minutes submitted by Patty Mastracci