Minutes
York County School Division
Gifted Education Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
7:00 pm in the YCSD School Board Office Round Room

- Welcome and Call to Order – Marybeth Young

- Committee Members in Attendance
  Anastasia Lohr – Magruder Elementary School
  Kristen Falk – Coventry Elementary
  Patty Mastracci – York High School
  Jeff Alston – Tabb Elementary School
  Wendy Learn - Mount Vernon Elementary
  Amy Colley, School Board Office
  Sarah Kueser – Waller Mill Elementary & Queens Lake Middle School
  Marybeth Young – Tabb High
  Elizabeth O’Brien – Yorktown Middle School
  Cam Steele – Dare Elementary School
  Colleen Brush – Grafton High School
  Sarah Haywood - EXTEND Center
  Candi Skinner – YCSD Director of Elementary Education
  Angie Jones – Seaford Elementary School
  Jane Roithmayr - Community Member, Committee Chair

- Others in Attendance
  Courtney Harris – York Elementary School (Alternate)

- Secretary’s Report – Marybeth Young
  A motion was made by Kristen Falk to accept the minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting and seconded by Courtney Harris. The minutes were accepted as written.

- Treasurer’s Report – Elizabeth O’Brien
  There is $1,083.41 in the account and $443.68 outstanding balance available for teacher reimbursements. There were no changes since the previous meeting.

- Gifted Education Update – Mrs. Haywood
  Kindergarten students were recently placed, and seminars will start right after spring break. A parent orientation meeting will be held later this March.

  Fourth quarter eligibility meetings were held earlier this week and new students found eligible will begin the week after Spring Break. There is a separate parent orientation meeting for those families.
The guest speaker for parents, Mary Ann Carr, is scheduled to come speak with cluster teachers on April 15th. Currently 10 have volunteered to attend, along with the 5 gifted resource teachers. She is returning on April 16th to speak with parents, at 7:00 at the Center.

Our middle school teacher is in the process of scheduling two meetings for current 5th grade EXTEND students and their parents. She will present information about the middle school EXTEND program. More information will be sent specifically to that group of students and parents.

The regional OM tournament will be held on March 29, with 10 teams representing YCSD. Volunteers are still needed for that day, please let Sarah Haywood know if you are interested.

Our middle school EXTEND students recently shared their work with the “Girls Rising” project, a nonprofit organization developed to increase literacy and schooling opportunities for girls around the world. They joined efforts with the AP human geography classes at GHS and collectively they raised almost $2000!

- Old Business
  There was not any old business to discuss.

- New Business
  - Spring fundraiser update - The Penny Harvest is currently in progress at the EXTEND center for grades 1-5 and has raised about $182 as of Friday, 3/14. Student interest is high, and the teachers are having a good time playing along with the students. A big thank you goes to Mrs. Abercrombie and Mrs. Steele for helping us with this project. The funds raised will be used to provide support for them to attend the National Association of Gifted Children’s national conference in Baltimore this coming November.
  - Gifted plan progress- Sarah Haywood met with Mrs. Kueser and Mrs. Kadolph to talk about how GEAC can have a more active role in gifted education, one of the goals in the “parent and community involvement” section. The group came to three points: a survey to determine parent interests and expectations, a GEAC member (chairperson?) talking with members of other gifted councils to determine similarities and differences (frequency of meetings, ideas for discussion, how/what they advocate for gifted ed.), and creating clear expectations for sharing information that is discussed during these GEAC meetings (sending minutes to interested parents through email lists). Some discussion followed regarding communication. It was decided that questions will be added to the annual survey.
  - Sarah Haywood visited the Norfolk Gifted Advisory Committee’s meeting this month and left with a few “takeaways”: Move meeting locations around town (shared this after visiting Va. Beach meeting last year), have a high school gifted student on the committee, have a “bring a friend” night for the members, plan the next year’s meetings/guests at the end-of-year meetings (so plans are in place and ready to share
for the entire year), invite the superintendent to a meeting, hold a “mock” eligibility so that parents are aware of paperwork and factors that lead to placement decisions, provide the annual letter at the end of the school year

- Book Donations – Kristen Falk will bring suggestion to the next GEAC meeting.
- K – 5 Literacy Program – Candi Skinner spoke about the literacy program. Currently there is a “reading” model and a “writing” model that would like to be combined into a “literacy” model. Ms. Skinner met with parent groups (including gifted parents) and developed a summary report that will be presented at the Board meeting in May. The summary will then be made available on the website.

- Parent Concerns & Comments
  - Discussion about Gifted Athletes in Middle & High School regarding transportation policies & procedures and the impact of down time waiting for athletic events vs. time for study & homework. Candi Skinner will follow-up.
  - Annual Survey – Discussion regarding the best way to receive parent feedback at the High School level. In past years good results have been achieved by having student focus groups at the high schools. The best response occurred when the surveys were mailed to the parents.
  - Kristen Falk complemented the Grafton Guidance Counselor on the response she received; stating that it was quick and the answers were clear & precise.
  - Annual Letter – New Elementary Screening Process was discussed regarding inclusion in the annual letter. The principals indicated that the screening tools were helpful and well received by the teachers.
  - Impact of Schools not paying for the AP test fees – has the number of students testing decreased? Have the schools been affected? Is there a negative impact on reporting?
  - Kudos to Ms. Spires for the great experience that occurred with the Girl’s Rising transformative learning project!

- Prepare to discuss speakers and topics for next year at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be on May 20, 2014.

Submitted by Anastasia Lohr, Secretary