

Minutes

York County School Division

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at YCSD Board Office

Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Members in Attendance

Kimberly Beauchan – Bethel Manor Elementary School

Kirsten Hancock – Coventry Elementary School

Beth Brauner – Dare Elementary School

Nashat Ahmad – Grafton Bethel Elementary School

Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School

Kristin Downey – Waller Mill Elementary School

Jamel Oliver – Yorktown Elementary School

Kristen Falk – Grafton Middle School

Nikiesha Virgil – Tabb Middle School

Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School

Jennifer Williams – Tabb High School

Patty Mastracci – York High School

Jane Roithmayr – Community Member

Sandy Hesper – Career and Technical Coordinator, School Board Office

Karen Cagle, K-12 Associate Director, School Board Office

Leeza Beazlie, Testing Coordinator, School Board Office

Anthony Vladu, Director of Secondary Instruction, School Board Office

Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND

Vee Baggett - EXTEND

Parent Concerns and Comments

A new PEP parent provided a positive comment regarding her student's involvement in the PEP program to the committee through the school committee member.

Secretary's Report – Danielle Way

A motion was made and seconded to bypass the reading of the minutes. Another motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the October 2016 meeting as written.

Treasurer's Report – Beth Brauner

No recent activity.

Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

The third quarter placement eligibility meetings were held earlier this month. There were 28 new students placed, which is about the same as last year's cycle during this same time period. We held our quarterly new parent orientation meeting last night.

Kindergarten referrals have been submitted and almost 70 have been received. This is about the same as last year. Identified students will participate in 8 seminars throughout the fourth quarter. A separate parent orientation will be held for parents of new kindergarten students in March.

Sarah Haywood has been working with a team of administrators, school-based gifted contacts, program coordinators, counselors, parents, and teachers to begin development of the 2018-2022 local plan for gifted education. We have a draft of goals and objectives ready to share with administrators, and we are still awaiting feedback from the technical review of the 2012-2017 plan, conducted last fall, that we want to incorporate.

The selection committee for Governor's school summer residential programs will soon meet to review applications and select nominees for these summer opportunities.

The deadline for applications for academic year New Horizons Governor's School is February 13, 2017. If you know a 10th grade gifted student who would be a good candidate for Governor's School, please encourage him/her to contact his/her guidance counselor immediately.

OM Update: Teams are preparing for the regional tournament, which will be held on March 4 at Menchville High School in Newport News. There is always a need for volunteers to assist that day. Please let Leeza Beazlie, who works with the OM teams, know if you are interested.

- Old Business

Discussion on the pros and cons of an ebook continued. Kristin Falk discussed the cost and licensing options vary from publisher to publisher. We also discussed the possibility of purchasing classroom books for the independent research unit.

The T-shirt design contest will happen in the Spring 2017. The sale of the new shirts will be in the Fall 2017.

The subcommittee for GEAC bylaw changes met. Nikiesha Virgil, Magan Echols and Kimberly Sliver-Perry made several recommendations to update the bylaws in addition to the goal of adding approving the meeting minutes electronically which will allow us to approve the minutes more promptly and efficiently. Other changes include adding the Director of Secondary Instruction to the list of member consultants, adding information about advertising the meetings, and defining a quorum as either a set number or more than half to conduct regular business. In addition, we discussed the vice-chair position and whether we have enough voting members in attendance to meet the 2/3 rule for bylaw changes. A suggestion was made to give the GEAC by-laws to new committee members.

- New Business

March 1st date set for parent workshop, more information will be forthcoming. This will be held at the EXTEND Center from 7-8 pm, with a chance to select 3 (of 4) mini-sessions to attend. Topics (at the moment!) will include preparing gifted students for the high school experience, social/emotional needs- likely related to anxiety sometimes found in gifted students, outside/extracurricular opportunities for students, and effective parent advocacy.

Sarah Haywood provided a thorough overview of the gifted plan components and process to date. She solicited feedback and written comments and suggestions of the Parent and Community Involvement part of the future plan. There was some discussion on two items - student mentors/coaches/sponsors portion and role of the GEAC member. The collected information will be shared at the March 28 GEAC meeting.

The next GEAC meeting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at York High School in the Kiva/Meeting room as an effort to hold at least one meeting in a central location. Dr. Valliant, the IB Coordinator, will provide a program update during this meeting. The last meeting of the school year will be May 23, 2017 at the YCSD School Board Office.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way