

Minutes

York County School Division

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at York High School

Welcome and Call to Order

Committee and Consulting Members in Attendance

Kimberly Beauchan – Bethel Manor Elementary School

Kirsten Hancock – Coventry Elementary School

Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School

Angie Jones – Seaford Elementary School

Magan Echols – Tabb Elementary School

Stacie Lohr – Queens Lake Middle School and Chairperson

Nikiesha Virgil – Tabb Middle School

Natalie Hall- Yorktown Middle School

Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School

Sang-Hyon Chu – Grafton High School

Jennifer Williams – Tabb High School

Patty Mastracci – York High School

Jane Roithmayr – Community Member

Leeza Beazlie, Testing Coordinator, School Board Office

Anthony Vladu, Director of Secondary Instruction, School Board Office

Kevin Valliant- IB Coordinator

Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND

Vee Baggett- EXTEND

Kristin Spires – EXTEND

Leanne Seguin- Grafton Bethel parent

IB Programme Update and Presentation

Dr. Kevin Valliant gave a presentation on the York County IB Programme. His information included the emphasis on academics and CAS (creativity, activity and service) as well as an overview of the Theory of Knowledge class and Research project. In addition the next group of freshman will be the largest group to enroll IB. He also answered questions regarding requirements and retention.

Parent Concerns and Comments

A question about finding York County School system data (specifically AP student data) on VDOE website was discussed and the availability of information as compared to other local school systems. Another parent brought a concern about availability of AP courses to students who wanted to take them.

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 January 24, 2017 meeting as written.

☐ Treasurer's Report – Stacie Lohr for Beth Brauner

No recent activity in the account. The Penny War fundraiser has netted about \$900 to date. A deposit will be made at the end of the fundraiser.

☐ Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

The Parent Information night on March 1, 2017 at the EXTEND center was well attended. Feedback on the event was positive.

A parent orientation for new Kindergarten parents was held.

A parent information session will be held after Spring Break for 4th quarter placed students.

Mrs. Spires will hold an information session about Middle School EXTEND for rising 6th grade students on April 19, 2017 at YMS.

● Old Business

A discussion about a different use for library book donation funds was discussed. Mrs. Haywood found that the books GEAC has donated to the public library were infrequently checked out. In addition, providing books for elementary independent research projects would only aide a subset of the gifted community. It was suggested that the funds may be better used to pay for speakers that are open to the whole community. The response to this suggestion was positive.

Stacie Lohr thanked the subcommittee for GEAC bylaw changes for their work. The bylaws were reviewed and a few additional clarifications made before a vote was taken to approve the changes. Changes included specifying that school board representatives other than the voting member will serve only as consulting representatives. In addition, it was clarified in the electronic approval of minutes section that only attending members shall approve the minutes and that a quorum was defined as more than half of the voting members. The changes were approved by a count of 14 ayes.

☐ New Business

Sarah Haywood provided a thorough overview of the revisions to date of the Local Plan for Gifted Education. She provided the Responses to Feedback from the Technical Review committee. She also provided some Q&A responses from a Directors and Principals meeting. Of note, they were interested in the GEAC member roles and info sharing.

The GEAC discussed the annual spring survey. We agreed, since we are in the final year of our Local Plan, that it was not necessary to use the old survey questions at the elementary level. This year we will do a simple two question (what is going well/what needs to be improved upon) survey to parents/families and not solicit information from the students. At the secondary level, we will do the more extensive survey with the hope of improving the distribution of and participation in the survey.

Stacie Lohr solicited volunteers for the annual GEAC letter. Nashat Ahmad, Kimberly Silver-Perry and Nikiesha Virgil agreed to collaborate on the letter.

Mrs. Haywood will recognize Mrs. Patty Mastracci for her many years of service on GEAC at our final meeting of the year.

The next GEAC meeting will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the School Board Office.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way