

## Minutes

### York County School Division

#### Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at YCSD School Board Office

Welcome and Call to Order

Committee and Consulting Members in Attendance

Kimberly Beauchan – Bethel Manor Elementary School  
Lindsey Cook – Coventry Elementary School  
Beth Brauner – Dare Elementary School  
Chy Green – Grafton Bethel Elementary School  
Miki Fett – Magruder Elementary School  
Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School  
Angie Jones – Seaford Elementary School  
Amy Speares – Tabb Elementary School  
Jamel Oliver – Yorktown Elementary School  
Nashat Ahmad – Grafton Middle School  
Stacie Lohr – Queens Lake Middle School and Chairperson  
Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School  
Sang-Hyon Chu – Grafton High School  
Michelle Haskiell – York High School  
Jennifer Williams – Tabb High School  
Sandy Hesper, Career and Technical Coordinator, School Board Office  
Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND  
Kristin Spires – EXTEND

Parent Concerns and Comments

The only concern raised was regarding the communication of scheduled student days off from EXTEND. The information is communicated via printed notes in folders and reminders in weekly email updates prior to the scheduled breaks.

Secretary's Report – Danielle Way

The minutes from the May 23, 2017 meeting were approved by the committee electronically prior to this meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Beth Brauner

No deposits. In September, we paid out \$1144.59 for two EXTEND teachers to attend the Gifted Education Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC. The account now holds \$158.62. In addition, our T-shirt fundraiser is wrapping up and we will have an update on the amount raised at our next meeting.

• Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

In August, our staff processed almost 60 referrals and tested those students before the start of school. Another cycle for second quarter placement is currently in progress with more than 150 students referred, and we'll meet for eligibility in the next few weeks to determine student placement for the 2nd unit of study. We have switched to a trimester schedule of testing under our new gifted plan, so this is a new year of schedules and testing cycles. It's also different this year in that the gifted resource teachers are administering the testing rather than the gifted contacts at the schools, so the Center is closed this week while teachers are testing students in the schools.

During the summer, a group of cluster teachers in grades 2-5 along with Sarah Haywood and Pam Schwalenberg participated in an optional "Math Exemplars" training. This is the second group of teachers being trained to use this computer-based problem-solving program that allows students to not only solve complex problems but explain their thinking and strategies, too. Also during the summer, there was a second group of primary grade teachers trained to incorporate "Number Talks" in their math classes. This practice will help develop students' math thinking in a more open-ended way.

Gifted resource teachers presented two sessions for teachers during the division-wide back-to-school professional development day in August. The presentations were well-received, and classroom teachers were provided with strategies to add depth and thinking to their questioning skills. The gifted staff has also offered to visit all elementary schools to present a similar session.

There was a parent orientation meeting held during the evening of September 11 at the Center, and approximately 150 parents/family members attended. Another will be held in December at the beginning of the second unit.

Jr. Great Books training is taking place this month for another group of elementary teachers. This is the third year a group of teachers has been trained after receiving positive feedback from teachers and administrators involved in previous sessions. This resource encourages the use of "shared inquiry" which promotes not only the discussion of reflective questions, but also the creation of such questions by the students.

Vee Baggett, the primary grade resource teacher, has begun implementation of lessons for first grade classes that are designed to help teachers screen their students for possible gifted referral, which is a part of the new gifted plan. She is working with schools that have low identification rates, and she is guiding students through a math and reading response activity. This allows teachers to observe her interactions with students, gives them a chance to see students through a different "lens" as Vee teaches while the classroom teacher considers items on the screening chart, and it provides an opportunity for the teacher and Vee to touch base/compare notes/discuss students' progress. Feedback from teachers and the school's principal has been positive.

Sarah has worked with the Va. Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted on a "charge" from the state Board of Education to develop guidelines to be used statewide that promote equity and opportunity across all student demographic groups. The document was released earlier this month and can be viewed here [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/gifted\\_ed/increasing-diversity.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/gifted_ed/increasing-diversity.pdf) . The Committee is now ready to begin its new project- which is still being finalized by the VDOE.

Last week the region 2 parent advisory meeting took place in Virginia Beach. York was well-represented by two high school students on a panel, Sarah led a roundtable, and our GEAC chairperson, Stacie Lohr attended along with our secondary gifted resource teacher, Kristin Spires. The list of resources for parents shared during the meeting is posted on our website at the bottom of the "Contents" on the left-hand side:

<http://www.edline.net/pages/YCSD/ExtendCenter>

Kristin attended the Virginia Association for the Gifted's conference in Norfolk this week, and we also sent a teacher from each of the middle schools. This was a perfect opportunity to learn more about Virginia gifted "happenings" and network with peers.

Next week a group of school board and building administrators and staff will meet to discuss increasing the amount of pullout services provided to second graders at the EXTEND Center. This is a part of the new gifted plan, so we are excited to move forward.

Other upcoming events:

Be aware that there will be an informational presentation about the New Horizons Governor's School by its director at each high school both this week and during the beginning of November—October 25 (GHS), Nov. 6 (YHS), Nov. 7 (BHS), and Nov 29 (THS) from 6:30-7:30pm. This is geared for 8-10th grade students and their parents. New Horizons will call and mail invitations to eligible students based on their math and science coursework, although it is open to all interested parents and students. Guidance departments/math teachers of potentially eligible students have also been notified. More information about that program can be found here: <https://nhrec.org/gsst/>

This is also the time of year when 10th and 11th grade students should consider applying for Summer Residential Governor's School or a summer Governor's Foreign Language Academy. Information about these opportunities is now available from the school counselors and it is posted on the VDOE website. Kristin is going to each high school next month to meet with interested students to assist with their planning and application process. Applications and information about each program can be found here:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors\\_school\\_programs/summer\\_residential/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/summer_residential/)

and here [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/foreign\\_language/language\\_academies/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/foreign_language/language_academies/)

OM: The regional tournament will be held on March 17 at Grafton High School. There is always a need for volunteers for both judging and general assistance during the tournament. The state final event will be held at Menchville High School in Newport News on April 14. If you want more information about these events, please let us know and Sarah will put you in touch with Leeza Beazlie, our OM coordinator.

The Focusing on the Future annual event for secondary students and their families will be held on Saturday, February 3, at William and Mary, for students in grades 6-12 and their parents. If you are interested, here's more information: <http://education.wm.edu/centers/cfge/precollegiate/future/index.php>

Dr. Ellen Fithian is scheduled to speak on November 2 at Grafton Middle School in the school's small auditorium/kiva at 7:00. She will talk about preparing secondary students for the college application process. Dr. Fithian has come before, and she is a wealth of information and has lots of advice for families. Please share this with friends who are parents of high school students.

- Old Business

Mrs. Lohr thanked the annual letter writers for the work they did and explained to the members the purpose and scope of the letter. She also shared the response to the letter from Dr. Shandor.

- New Business

Our Community Representative spot is currently vacant. We discussed how we would like to fill this role and purpose of the member. We will share ideas and continue the discussion at our January meeting.

Mrs. Haywood shared with us the Virginia DOE brochure titled Roles and Responsibilities of Local Gifted Education Advisory Committees. As part of our effort to communicate with families of gifted students, we now have email contact lists of families who gave permission to receive information from GEAC. We plan to share meeting minutes with families and school administrators as well as information about special programs.

Mrs. Lohr will update and distribute to the committee the annual parent information letter. This letter is given to parents at EXTEND orientations, guidance counselors, and posted on the EXTEND and individual school websites. In addition, with the development of the contact list of EXTEND families, each school representative will be able to send it to those who opted to receive emails from GEAC.

The 2017-2018 school year GEAC meetings are tentatively scheduled for 6:30 pm on January 23, 2018, March 27, 2018 and May 22, 2018. Either the January or March meeting will be held at the YHS library.

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way