

Minutes

York County School Division

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at YHS Library

Welcome and Call to Order

Committee and Consulting Members in Attendance

Lindsey Cook – Coventry Elementary School

Beth Brauner – Dare Elementary School

Chy Green – Grafton Bethel Elementary School

Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School

Angie Jones – Seaford Elementary School

Amy Speares – Tabb Elementary School

Jamel Oliver – Yorktown Elementary School

Stacie Lohr – Queens Lake Middle School and Chairperson

Kristin Downey – Waller Mill Elementary School

Nikiesha Virgil – Tabb Middle School

Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School

Sang-Hyon Chu – Grafton High School

Michelle Haskiell – York High School

Jennifer Williams – Tabb High School

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

Sandy Hesper, Career and Technical Coordinator, School Board Office

Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND

Candi Skinner – School Board Office

Anthony Vladu – School Board Office

Kristin Spires – EXTEND

Parent Concerns and Comments

A concern was raised regarding the communication of scheduled student days for EXTEND. In addition, snow days recently impacted the schedule and adjustments were made.

The testing/retesting requirements for new York County students was clarified. We also discussed the information school staff had about the gifted education for new families.

In addition, we touched on the process of clustering students at the elementary school level.

Secretary's Report – Danielle Way

The minutes from the November 24, 2017 meeting were approved by the committee electronically prior to this meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Beth Brauner

Money from the T-shirt fundraiser was deposited and associated expenses paid. The fundraiser netted \$574. The account now holds \$732.91.

- Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

Two gifted resource teachers attended the recent NAGC conference in Charlotte thanks in part to the GEAC's contribution to registration and travel fees. Two quick examples of the impact this conference has had are new math activities created by a teacher for use in her gifted class as well as the cluster classroom and contact made with a potential speaker for teachers and parents next year.

Vee Baggett, the primary gifted resource teacher, is continuing work with the initiative to teach a series of talent development lessons followed by whole grade screening with the NNAT in first grade in the schools that have low enrollment numbers. These talent development lessons have also stemmed from information learned at NAGC conference sessions. She is now starting on the third school with lessons, and the second school is administering the screening today. Dr. Cagle and Sarah Haywood met with staff from the first school after the testing was complete. As a result, 5 new referrals were made and ideas were shared to help work with students who showed potential. Plans are in place to work with one more school this year during the piloting of these activities- which is part of our new 5-year gifted plan.

The recent snow storms have impacted our referral cycles, but the gifted education staff is moving forward as best as we can. Schools are still sending referrals for the January 11 deadline and we'll start the testing window next week instead of this week. We'll work to be ready for students to start as planned in March, for the final third of the school year. Feedback regarding this new testing/placement cycle has been positive from school staffs as we've moved from a quarterly cycle to trimesters this year.

Kindergarten referrals will be submitted next week. 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.

The selection committee for Governor's school summer residential programs will soon meet to review applications and select nominees for these summer opportunities. It's important to mention that Kristin Spires, our secondary gifted resource teacher, worked with high school counselors to identify more than 20 high school students who wanted assistance with their applications for these summer programs, and we also provided testing for one who benefitted from updated standardized test scores. Although the number of applicants has increased this year, we want to encourage HS guidance offices to reach out to students and encourage qualified students to apply.

The deadline for applications for academic year New Horizons Governor's School is approaching on February 28- this deadline was extended. 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 and to visit <http://nhrec.org/gsst/admissions/how-to-apply>

OM Update: Teams are preparing for the regional tournament, which will be held on March 17th at Grafton High School/Middle School. 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

Our Community Representative spot is currently vacant. We continued our discussion of how we would like to fill this role and purpose of the member. The idea of a member with ties to under-represented communities is being considered.

New Business

Gifted staff would like to try a new fundraising method: By holding a Friday Fun Night at the Center. This would be an evening for parents to drop off their elementary EXTEND students, for a designated fee, at the Center for an evening of supervised games and activities with the EXTEND teachers. A GEAC representative would be needed to collect fees and provide invoices that night. Danielle Way volunteered to help. The next step is to follow up with school administration directors to make sure this event follows safety policies and procedures. The GEAC committee voted to move forward with this fundraising activity. In addition, we discussed utilizing community reward programs such as Kroger as an ongoing fundraiser.

A March date is being planned for a parent seminar regarding gifted high school students' mental health. This will be held at the GMS kiva from 6:30-7:30 pm. Analisa Wellington, YCSD's Lead Psychologist, will address managing anxiety as it relates to gifted teens and Dr. Tracy Cross, from The College of William and Mary, will discuss depression and teen suicide. This topic was requested by a GEAC member earlier in the fall.

Our next meeting will be held on March 27, 2018 at the YCSD School Board Office at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way