

Minutes

York County School Division

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at YCSD School Board Office

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Committee and Consulting Members in Attendance

Lindsey Cook – Coventry Elementary School
Meg Storey – Dare Elementary School
Chy Green – Grafton Bethel Elementary School and Chairperson
Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School
Lindsey Leach – Seaford Elementary School
Andrew Duggan – Yorktown Elementary School
Jessica Diebler – Grafton Middle School
Margaret Harned – Queens Lake Middle School/Magruder Elementary School
Beth Brauner – Yorktown Middle School
Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School
Sang-Hyon Chu – Grafton High School
Jennifer Williams – Tabb High School
Michelle Haskiell – York High School
Stacie Lohr – Past Chairperson
Christina Head, K-12 Associate Director, School Board Office
Candi Skinner – Director of Elementary Education, School Board Office
Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND
Kristin Spires – Secondary Gifted Education Teacher, EXTEND

- Parent Comments

We received positive feedback on the parent presentation by our guest speaker, Dr. Elissa Brown. We had a good turnout and for those who were not able to attend her presentation is located on the YCSD website on the EXTEND page.

Stacie Lohr thanked those who have volunteered to help form a Parent Advocacy Group and reported that the group was making progress. Before disseminating information to families, the committee will wait for clarification on the guidelines for parent groups which is in development at the school board office.

- Secretary's Report – Danielle Way

The committee electronically approved the minutes from the October 23, 2018 meeting prior to this meeting. Moving forward, we will be clear when the approved final minutes are ready to be distributed to families and posted to the website.

Members were reminded to send families the “Welcome” email along with the last meeting’s minutes. A question was raised regarding the receipt of an updated email distribution list when new students enter the program.

- Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

New students were identified at the end of November, they began pullout services mid-December, and the gifted education staff held a parent orientation meeting for those families.

The results of the first whole-grade NNAT screening for first graders were recently returned, and all students who scored in the 95th percentile and higher were then referred for full evaluation. Because of that, referral numbers for this last trimester are high, at over 200 students, and further testing is taking place over the next two weeks. Gifted resource teachers will be assisting gifted contacts with this at the schools during this week’s early dismissal days.

Last week, Dr. Elissa Brown provided professional development sessions related to meeting academic needs for elementary cluster teachers of grades 1-5. She also had a lunch session with the gifted resource teachers. Dr. Brown also presented an informational session for parents that focused on social and emotional needs of gifted students, which had an audience of about 100 people.

The deadline for kindergarten referrals is 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.

During this kindergarten referral cycle, one school piloted an online referral system created by our IT department. This has been requested by the gifted contacts to help reduce the amount of paperwork needed for referrals.

The year-long online book study that gifted resource teachers prepared for elementary cluster teachers continues, with the first of two optional “in person” meetings taking place tomorrow afternoon. There are specific windows of time for discussion/response to questions for given chapters, and it has provided a great opportunity for teachers to get to know each other better and share their perspectives and ideas. It is also helping to identify gaps in communication between gifted resource and cluster teachers.

The selection committee for Governor’s school summer residential programs will soon meet to review applications and select nominees for these summer opportunities. 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 staff also provided testing for one who needed updated standardized test scores.

The deadline for applications for academic year New Horizons Governor’s School is approaching on February 11. 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 <https://nhrec.org/gsst/admissions/how-to-apply/?!>

There is still time to register for The William and Mary’s Center for Gifted Education annual “Focusing on the Future” event that will take place on Saturday, February 2. Registration information can be found here: <https://education.wm.edu/centers/cfge/precollegiate/future/brochure-2019.pdf>

At the end of February, there will be a 2nd professional development session for gifted resource teachers as they work to incorporate the Kaplan depth and complexity thinking prompts in their units and activities. Barbara Kennedy, a retired Virginia Beach City Public Schools gifted coordinator, is providing this session.

The Virginia Association for the Gifted will hold its biennial conference in Richmond later this year in October. There will be a separate parent session, with sessions planned for school-aged children, on Saturday, October 19. Please keep this in mind and plan to attend. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the website www.vagifted.org.

OM Update: Teams are preparing for the regional tournament, which will be held on March 16 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

We are updating the GEAC bylaws. A small group is needed to review. In addition, we will clarify the approval process for the updated bylaws. Changes will be sent for review prior to our March meeting.

- New Business

An EXTEND program evaluation is being planned, as a result of a request from a School Board member this past spring. The YCSD has enlisted the assistance of Carolyn Callahan, Ph.D. from The University of Virginia to conduct the EXTEND program evaluation. Dr. Callahan will review data and program materials, perform focus groups, observe both cluster classrooms and EXTEND center classrooms, and hold discussions with school board members, YCSD office staff and educators. Christina Head will be presenting information about this EXTEND program evaluation at the February 4, 2019 School Board Work Session meeting.

The dates and times for the three parent sessions (which will not include instructors or EXTEND staff) are as follows:

Parent Members of the 2016 Five Year Gifted Plan Committee: 20 February 2010 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the SBO Round Room

GEAC Members (past and present): 20 February from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the SBO Round Room

Parents of Gifted Students Open House: 21 February at 6:30 in the SBO Round Room

Ms. Head emphasized that all parents of gifted students are welcome to attend the 21 February session. It is not restricted to parents of students currently in grades K-7. Further details for each of the sessions will be distributed to GEAC and families at a later date.

During the discussion of the EXTEND program evaluation, concerns were raised regarding the 8th grade “gap” in specific gifted education opportunities available to them as well as for high school programs.

Future Meeting Dates:

March 26, 2019 – Magruder Elementary Library and May 28, 2019 – School Board Office. All meetings are held at 6:30 pm.

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way

