

Minutes

York County School Division

Gifted Education Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at Magruder Elementary School

- 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

Miki Fett – Magruder Elementary School

Danielle Way – Mt. Vernon Elementary School and Tabb High School

Lindsey Leach – Seaford Elementary School

Andrew Duggan – Yorktown Elementary School

Jessica Diebler – Grafton Middle School

Lara Goodwin (for Margaret Harned) – Queens Lake Middle School

Jamel Oliver – Tabb Middle School

Beth Brauner – Yorktown Middle School

Kimberly Silver-Perry – Bruton High School

Michelle Haskiell – York High School

Stacie Lohr – Past Chairperson

Christina Head, K-12 Associate Director, School Board Office

Sarah Haywood – Gifted Education Coordinator, EXTEND

Dr. Tony Vladu, Director of Secondary Education, School Board Office

Dr. Karen Cagle, Associate Director of Educational Technology and Innovation, School Board Office

- Parent Concerns and Comments

A parent raised a concern that the EXTEND program evaluation held in February was an indicator that the program may be eliminated. That parent was reassured that was not the case. In addition, the parent commented that he/she hoped an evaluation would be done more often. Another parent noted that the parent session times were not consistently publicized and therefore missed part of the session she attended.

Stacie Lohr reported that the Parent Advocacy Group has developed a set of preliminary bylaws and guidelines. The group will wait until the results of the program evaluation are released and the guidelines for fundraising by groups is provided from the School Board finance office before finalizing them. Jennifer Williams has also been in contact with Mr. Bowen to follow up on the fundraising guidelines for groups. Those guidelines should be completed after budget season.

Some committee members are awaiting new parent contact information for the most recent rounds of placements. The information will be provided soon.

□ Secretary's Report – Danielle Way

The committee electronically approved the minutes from the January 22, 2019 meeting on February 7, 2019.

• High School Update

Dr. Karen Cagle gave GEAC an overview of the new EngagedIN YCSD program. As part of the YCSD FY18-22 strategic plan in alignment with the Virginia Profile of a Graduate, YCSD is encouraging businesses, community members and parents to partner with our K-12 schools and students to help prepare our students for their futures. One objective for high school students is to provide each student with an internship, mentorship or work related experience by FY22. In addition to mentorship class credit, students will now be able to receive credit for job/work experiences. Businesses, community members and parents can register online to participate in the program. YCSD currently has participants in each of the 16 identified career clusters and is encouraging others to become involved. In addition, career fairs have been held at Grafton and York High Schools with Bruton and Tabb High Schools later this week and in April, respectively. GEAC members asked questions about background/verification checks, recruiting methods and graduation requirements.

Dr. Tony Vladu gave GEAC an overview of the new Early College Program the school division is implementing beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. The program is a partnership between YCSD and Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) and allows senior students to earn up to 20 college credits as they prepare for college or a career. It will be open to 60 students division wide by application. Information meetings at Tabb and Grafton High Schools have been completed and will be held in the upcoming weeks at Bruton and York High Schools.

• Gifted Education Update – Sarah Haywood

New eligibility meetings were held recently for the third and final “trimester” placement, and 40 students were placed. A parent orientation meeting was held last week.

New kindergarten students were recently placed, and their seminars will start right after spring break. Fewer kindergarten students were referred than in previous years, and so fewer have been identified so far this year. A parent orientation meeting was held last night at the Center.

Both of those placement cycles have taken advantage of the “hold” determination. This is helpful when the evidence gathered is not consistent, and the committee wants more information before making a placement decision.

Our final placement cycle is in progress. Referrals have been submitted and testing will take place right after spring break. Gifted resource teachers will conduct the testing at the schools and no EXTEND classes will be held on April 9-12.

Three schools have piloted an online referral system, which will assist school-based gifted contacts with their paperwork. This system will allow both teachers and parents to complete forms online. We are hoping to move forward next year to include more schools as we work through “the kinks” of transitioning to electronic procedures.

The year-long online book study that gifted resource teachers prepared for elementary cluster teachers will wrap up after spring break. These have specific dates/windows when teachers comment and share responses to their reading of When Gifted Kids Don't Have all the Answers. The second of two optional “in person” meetings will take place later this spring.

A student and parent informational meeting for rising 6th graders will be held at YMS later this spring. A date is not yet confirmed, and meeting information will be sent directly to families of identified 5th graders.

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, 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.

Statewide, advocacy work for gifted education is going strong. Sarah attended a recent NAGC meeting in Alexandria with a focus on leadership and advocacy. She also visited Senator Kaine's office to encourage continued funding for the Jacob Javits Gifted Education Program. This is the only source of dedicated federal funding for gifted education. Statewide, Sarah is finishing a fourth year as an Executive Board member and treasurer of the Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators. This group of all of the gifted coordinators from around the state meets annually for a day of sharing and learning from each other, and so the Executive Board meets periodically to coordinate this event. Sarah is also finishing a fourth year as a member of (and vice chair for) the Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted, as appointed by the Virginia Department of Education. As shared in October, this group is currently taking on an authentic advocacy role and is examining state policies and regulations related to gifted education. The Committee will suggest changes at the state-level related to acceleration, teacher preparation, equitable access, and accountability/looking at student growth. Finally, this is the second year that Sarah has been a part of the Executive Board of the Virginia Association for the Gifted, and she is involved in conference planning and proposal reviews. In summary, York's gifted staff is well-connected to current events and issues related to this specialized field!

Update from the recent Odyssey of the Mind tournament:

OM teams from Yorktown Elementary, Queens Lake Middle, Tabb High and York High will move on to the state tournament after placing at the recent regional competition. The state tournament will be held at Manassas High School on April 6th.

- Old Business

Changes to the GEAC bylaws will be up for a vote at our next meeting in May. The changes made include references to financial duties and substitute representatives for members unable to attend a meeting.

- New Business

The gifted program has contracted with Dr. Carolyn Callahan to conduct a partial program evaluation, and she recently visited for observations and to hold several focus groups. The gifted education staff is appreciative of all who came and provided feedback for this review. Christina Head, the Associate Director of Academic Services, reported that Dr. Callahan will be completing and sending her report to Superintendent, Dr. Shandor, in April. This report will be presented to the school board during the May work session. We hope to have the information for the next GEAC meeting in May.

GEAC annually collects data in preparation for writing the annual letter. Last year we collected less information after seeing very little change in some areas. This year we want to ensure we review and collect the data we need to highlight our program goals and accomplishments.

Volunteers were solicited to help write the annual GEAC letter. The following parents have volunteered to date: Meg Storey (Dare Elementary), Andrew Duggan (Yorktown Elementary), Kimberly Silver-Perry (Data Collection/Bruton High), and Stacie Lohr (Editing/Bruton High.) The committee strives to have diverse representation among grade level and location in preparing the annual letter.

Volunteers were also solicited for GEAC officer positions for the 2019-2020 school year.

Our next meeting will be May 28, 2019 – School Board Office at 6:30 pm.

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Way