

Gifted Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2015; 6:30 pm

Attendees:

Cheryl McCullough, APS Supervisor, Gifted Services

Beth Dowd, GSAC Co-Chair

Joshua Turner, GSAC Co-Chair

Dan Corcoran

Meredith Purple

Nick Walkosak

(MISSING NAME_ WOMAN WITH SHORT DARK HAIR)

Ms. Dowd opened the meeting with introductions.

Ms. Dowd led a discussion regarding GSAC's report, due to ACI in March. Topics to be included are:

1. Update of the state of services based on our data requests, such as, how many students are identified, how many fine arts vs. academic identifications, effects from the use of NNAT and CoGAT testing, particularly among under-identified populations, etc. Ms. McCullough will follow up with APS IT staff to obtain this information.
2. A recommendation that Ms. McCullough receive a budget increase to allow for the hiring of a Program Assistant. Will need data from Ms. McCullough regarding her position description/duties and the anticipated position description/duties for the new position.
3. Update regarding services in the middle schools, particularly on the state of clustering and need for intensified classes. Also, include information regarding APS' introduction of intensified classes for World Languages at the MS level.
4. Update on the implementation of the program change from "pull out" services to the "push in" model. Ms. McCullough has an update previously written for the school board that she will forward to GSAC as possible content for this section.
5. Update on RTGs at elementary schools and the need for 1 per school instead of based on planning factor of 500 students. Discussion to include inconsistency across the system, inconsistency from year to year and resultant damage to services/students, loss of staff time to hire and train, demand on Ms. McCullough's time to assist at understaffed schools.

Ms. Dowd will send an email in the next month to assign report sections and begin drafting.

Ms. McCullough gave an update on Gifted Services activities in the Fall semester.

1. The program evaluation process continues and will include an outside evaluator from the William and Mary Gifted Education program.

2. All schools have had gifted services information nights, and the PowerPoint is available on the website.
3. Governor's School applications are in process now from fine arts. Numbers are consistent with past years. Academic applications are due in January. All information is available on the website.
4. Ms. McCullough conducted professional development training for classroom teachers and RTGs in a number of curriculum programs, including M3, Jacobs Ladder, Navigators, and Document Based Questions, among others. RTGs also had the opportunity to attend training programs Cognitive Coaching and Adaptive Schools to increase their abilities to work with staff at their schools.
5. Gifted Services is creating lists of grade and subject-specific curricula so that classroom teachers can easily find and use appropriate gifted units.
6. RTGs assisted with/led Hour of Code projects at a number of schools and tweeted about it.
7. MS. McCullough had RTGs send highlights of first quarter activity for their schools. Gunston and Kenmore have not responded. Ms. McCullough will follow up so that we can include this information in our March report.

There was a general discussion of the changes to No Child Left Behind and its successor legislation (ESSA). NAGC is holding a webinar on the changes to the law this week which will be available on their website.

Ms. Dowd adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.