

GSAC Meeting 9/26/2016

Attendees

Cynthia Torg	Samara Weilenmann	Beth Dowd
Dan Corcoran	Ryoko Reed	Elaine Maag
Meredith Purple	Yun Kang	Cheryl McCullough
Wendy Pizer		

Meredith Purple opened the meeting for the group.

Dreambox is a new program for middle school students to practice math. General feedback from GSAC members was negative, but we moved to gather additional information and discuss further at the next meeting. Communication from APS to parents about Dreambox has been insufficient.

This is a reporting year for GSAC, and the report is due to ACI on 10/26. We will be determining priorities for the report, and assigning sections later in the meeting.

Cheryl's Update

Hiring Updated:

We have 6 new RTGs at schools this year. Six schools moved from having a part time RTG to a full time RTG which was a response to one of GSAC's recommendations to the School Board.

Collaboration with Title 1:

Gifted Services partnered with Title I schools to start Young Scholars at Drew in 2015-2016.

The model is designed to find and nurture historically underrepresented students for gifted services by focusing on potential. The program was a great success culminating in the Young Scholars Drew Innovation Summer Academy. The summer program was featured in a NewsCheck video for the community.

In 2016-2017, Title 1 hired an Academic Support Teacher to expand YS to Randolph ESM.

Going forward, the hope is to expand to middle schools however, this will require funding as Title 1 funding is only for elementary schools.

The Summer Laureate program was successful again this year. The program expanded from 10 to 12 classes this year, as well as to fifth grade. The program was featured in a video on #digitalAPS

Collaboration with Title 1 and Career

There will be a Young Scholars intercession at Barcroft in October. This will be collaborative work between Gifted Services, Title 1 and the new elementary STEM specialist.

Social Studies and Gifted Services Collaboration – Middle School Summer Enrichment Programs

The middle school summer school enrichment program was well-received this year. This was the first year for this initiative and the hope is that this will be repeated next summer.

Summer Residential Governor's School

Governor's School applications for visual and performing arts are due to hit around October 1. Cheryl is updating the schedule for Visual and Performing Arts and the Academic applications. Cheryl is currently recruiting adjudicators for VPA auditions in November.

Last year, Washington and Lee gave the NNAT-2 to HILT students who were new to the system. This is another step in improving identification of and services to under-represented students.

Gifted Services has created a Google site with resources for cluster teachers in elementary and middle school. The information was presented to the RTG's as well as new elementary and middle school teachers. Cheryl will hopefully have some feedback as the RTG's roll this out to their teachers and they make use of it.

Cheryl has data on middle school clustering, with elementary coming soon. She is working on additional data incorporating the professional development of the cluster teachers.

GSAC and Meetings with School Board members

Meetings with School Board members over the summer concerning Intensified Classes generally went well.

GSAC Report

Meredith Purple led the conversation about the upcoming GSAC report due to ACI in late October.

The Report

- 1) Teacher Specialist for Gifted Services
- 2) Intensified Classes in Middle School
- 3) Address Inconsistency in identification and services

There was significant discussion of how many recommendations to include in the report, and the final decision was the above three.

Assignments

- 1) Deidre/Whitney (neither were present)
- 2) Ryoko Reed
- 3) Dan/Elaine

Drafts of sections are due to Meredith by 10/7

Next meeting is 10/24

All meeting times and locations can be found on the Gifted Services webpage in the GSAC folder.