

Gifted Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

6:00PM

Attending: Keith Pennington, Joyce Mandeville, Lisa Grinnell, Daryl Hylton (virtual), Karen Busher (virtual), Jessica Martin (virtual), Mr. & Mrs. Stelter, Anna Weddle, Megan Young, Mr. Lucas, Sarah Reynolds

Motions: Nominations for Committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary were made as follows:

Committee Chairperson-Mr. Stelter
Committee Vice Chairperson- Brian Lucas
Committee Secretary- Carissa Stelter

Recap of prior Advisory Committee Meeting: Focus was gifted program design.

Agenda Topics:

1. Currently the elementary gifted identification process for 2nd grade is underway. The NNAT test will be administered over the next few weeks. Mr. Pennington explained the nature of the NNAT test as a non-verbal abilities test. Candidates from the NNAT will be administered the KBIT.
2. As stated previously the hands-on nature of the gifted program is difficult to replicate virtually. This continues to be an ongoing challenge.
3. VMPI (Virginia Math Pathways Initiative) is moving forward. This is an initiative from the VDOE. Within 5 years the program will be fully integrated. More information for parents is available on the VDOE website.
4. In middle school the gifted population is cluster-grouped in English. Some changes may be coming. Some parents had concerns that gifted high school students may not currently be challenged enough. Concerns were brought up regarding the required personal finance class and whether it would interfere with other endeavours such as band in some cases.
5. There are some worries that some AP classes could disappear in favor of dual enrollment. Parents were encouraged to explore college requirements ahead of making those choices.

6. Per Mr. Pennington's instructions Mrs. Mandeville added notes to the Moving Forward Section of the agenda slide. (See presentation for changes.)

Input from the GAC summarizing ideas and input from the design discussion:

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- 1. Another Elementary GRT
 - 2. Homogeneous grouping grades 3-5
 - 3. Training of teachers in gifted education prior to teaching a group.
 - 4. The AP vs. Dual Enrollment piece needs to be cleared up.
 - 5. Better guidance for course selection
 - 6. Can courses be taken remotely or independently? (more flexibility in scheduling-summer, overload of courses, etc.)
 - 7. VMPI- is this initiative being followed through?
7. A third gifted resource teacher is being requested but there is no guarantee that it can be included in the budget.

Closing Comments: Mr. Pennington announced there would be one more meeting in the spring and this could possibly occur after the budget is set. Providing that is the case we would know whether a third gifted resource teacher has been allocated.

Adjournment: 7:40PM