

PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Petersburg School District Gifted Education Program
255 E SOUTH BOULEVARD
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23805



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

10 November 2022

SUBJECT: Petersburg City Public Schools Gifted Advisory Committee Meeting.
Meeting Minutes (10 Nov 22, 5:30pm – 6:30pm)

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting is to share updates, review bylaws, and to ask/answer questions about pertinent information about the Gifted Program.

2. **Background:** This is the first meeting of the 22-23 school year for the Gifted Advisory Committee. Our program has grown exponentially, and now is the time to determine where we are and what goals we are working toward.

3. **Attendance:**

Dr. Fludd-Flanagan (Coordinator)
Dana Peagler Crivaro (Teacher/Writer of minutes)
Kirsten Katzenbach (Teacher)
Lakeshia Tinsley (Parent)
Regina Farr (Specialty schools)
Kenneth Pritchett (School Board Chair)
Tarnisha Rose (Parent)
Mandelia Fisher (Principal)
Julius Hamlin (Deputy Superintendent)
Dr. Daniels (Chief Academic Officer)

4. **Summary:** The Gifted Education Program hosted the Petersburg City Public Schools Gifted Advisory Committee meeting on November 10, 2022 via Zoom Video Conference. A meeting agenda was provided to all participants prior to attendance, as well as a copy of the Bylaws. Summarized minutes from the meeting follow:

- a. Welcome and Introduction (Dr. Fludd-Flanagan)
 - Introduction of teachers: Dr. Fludd-Flanagan, Mrs. Peagler/Crivaro, and Mrs. Katzenbach*
 - We have been working on a unit about the rainforest(s)! Pictures of students will be included.*
- b. Review of Bylaws (Farr)

- Bylaws have been reviewed verbatim by Regina Farr
- A copy of the Bylaws can be found in your email inbox
- Next steps should include adding more members to the Advisory committee

- c. Gifted Services Update (Dr. FF, Mrs. Peagler Crivaro, Mrs. Katzenbach)
- After universal testing for 2021-2022, we had a total of 293 students (ARGS- 16, PHS-29). *updated numbers to come*
 - After student departures, we have about 220 total, currently.
 - Pictures from Cool Spring have been shared of students working with Venn Diagrams, bar graphs, comparing and contrasting, and improving handwriting.
 - Elementary levels have been learning about the different levels of the rainforest, such as the forest floor, canopy, and emergent layer along with all of the animals that inhabit them.
 - Middle school has been working with text features, basic composition, and the importance of saving the rainforest through creating their own newspaper articles.
 - Other pictures shared from Walnut Hill display students learning about different animals in the rainforest (such as toucans, sloths, panthers, etc.), predators and prey, and writing in their science journals weekly.
 - Students receive services each week for 1 hour

Related Questions:

-Question asked: "Who works with virtual students?"

Answer: Currently, activities are loaded into folders on Schoology for virtual students to access.

-Question asked: "Were students tested or is there a referral process?"

Answer: There is a referral process that includes collecting work samples, assessing grades and scores, as well as universal testing.

-Question asked: "Do you all accept twice-exceptional students?"

Answer: Absolutely! Many of our students are twice-exceptional, as well as a fair amount of English Language Learners.

- d. Specialty Schools Update (Farr)
- Application period is open for Maggie Walker and CodeRVA (Dec 1st deadline)
 - CodeRVA application process is done completely online and December 13th is the information session
 - ARGS has 62 spots
 - Maggie Walker has 10 spots
 - Code RVA has 8 spots
 - Question asked: How do parents know about enrollment periods?**
 - Answer: The head counselor has provided information about specialty school enrollment to students/families. Ms. Farr has also arranged for ARGS to visit with students at VJMS.
 - Question asked: Have we considered 5th grade field trips to expose them to specialty schools?**

Answer: We love this idea! This is something with which we will have to collaborate with leadership.

Additional Questions:

-Question asked: "When will all grades be considered?"

*Answer: We do not have the capacity at the moment, but plan for universal testing. Tentatively, we were planning for March 2023. *There may be testing conflicts with Pre-SOL, benchmark testing, WIDA, etc.**

-Question asked: "Are all teachers aware of the options to refer students?"

Answer: Yes! Teachers have been trained by principals and other members of the gifted team on how to refer, who can refer, and their role in the process. In fact, we have received quite a few referrals already with much interest.

-Question asked: "Are teachers at Virtual Virginia aware that they can refer? Are parents of virtual students aware?"

Answer: It seems that parents who are familiar with the program are aware of the referral process. However, we will work to disseminate information to virtual families about the gifted referral process.

e. New Business / Items for Discussion:

Next steps are as follows

- Draft informational letter for virtual families (Monday, November 14th)
- Recruit members for Advisory Committee (Ongoing)
- Follow up about the best time for testing in accordance with the testing calendar (Dr. FF and Dr. Price)

f. Motion to Adjourn.

- The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Fludd-Flanagan at approximately 6:29pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Daniels.

7. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be hosted by the Gifted Program on 12 January 2023 at 5:30pm via Zoom Video Conference.

8. Point of Contact. Dr. Fludd-Flanagan, befludd-flanagan@petersburg.k12.va.us