

## Alexandria City Public Schools

### Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

#### March 14, 2022 Minutes

**Meeting:** March 14, 2022, via Zoom

**Current TAGAC Members Present:** Nicholas Miller (Chair), Kathleen Sheehy (Vice Chair), Julia Egy (Secretary), Maria Irene Arevalo, Andrew Corso, Mark Lacy, Laura Rose, Mary Beth Walker, Liza Burrell-Aldana, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner

#### **New Business:**

##### Chair's Opening Remarks

- We will be adding a June meeting to the TAGAC calendar.
  - We didn't think we needed to have a June meeting when we initially laid out an agenda for the year, but we have determined that one is necessary.
- The Chair would like all subcommittee reports ready to be posted for the May meeting.
  - We would then vote on them in June
- The TAGAC will have officer elections during the May meeting.
  - We'd like to post the ballot during the April meeting, we would then vote in May.
  - This would allow the new officers to help with this year's committee report.

##### Staff Comments - Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner

- We are still wrapping up TAG appeals.
  - There were around 100 appeals, with 1100 kids screened for TAG eligibility.
    - There were both full day and after school sessions for the appeals,
      - The after school sessions ran from 3-6PM, while the full day sessions ran from 8:30 to 3PM.
  - Included in feedback that Dr. Tempel-Milner received during the appeal process was that staff liked seeing how the process worked and learning more about the kids.
    - Decision letters will go to the kids on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, if their appeals have been completed.
      - Kindergarten-age kids aren't done yet, as well as a few others.
- TAG Steering Committee
  - Meetings have been going well.
    - The committee is focusing on the delivery of TAG services.
      - Part of this is a reflection on what is happening now and in the past..
      - They are not rushing this aspect of the process due to the impact it will have on services.
  - The steering committee is also working on a differentiated curriculum.

- Currently there are different types of curriculum resources to help create differentiated plans in the classroom.
  - ACPS is in the process of updating that, creating grade level sheets by subjects.
  - ACPS will do one grade level first, and then K-5 and upward as the process goes along.
  - This is a portion of the local plan
- Identification procedures
  - ACPS had experts come in to speak about the new Naglieri test.
    - Those experts presented to the leadership team.
    - They discussed using local norms.
      - That's something the Steering Committee and TAGAC will hopefully continue to discuss.
- Push-in vs. a Pullout model
  - ACPS has not yet determined whether it will move to a push-in versus a pullout model for elementary TAG services.
    - That's a big conversation.
    - There was a recommendation for that, but nothing is definitive.
    - It's something the TAG Steering Committee needs to discuss.
  - Per Dr. Tempel-Milner: The idea is not to take services from some students, but to make sure that the services are tiered-up to get all kids raised.
  - What is the timeline and will the local plan be available for the fall?
    - If not, are there things that can be done in the interim (e.g., push-in vs. pullout)
      - There will be a timeline to phase things in, if we make these changes. There would need to be an implementation plan.
  - Question from member- What do we do for students who are not eligible for TAG, but want the services.
    - Per Dr. Tempel-Milner: In middle and high school, there are open honors classes.
    - But, in elementary school, there is not an open program. .
- Elementary vs. Middle School Services
  - The TAGAC Chair asserted that ACPS' middle schools don't really have a delivery of services model due to open honors.
    - It is hard to get a DEP for middle school students.
    - There is a disconnect from elementary where there is focused attention to the middle school where there is only a hope of a good teacher.
  - Per Dr. Tempel-Milner: For Jefferson-Houston and Patrick Henry there is no specifically assigned middle school TAG specialist. They have one TAG specialists and for GWMS, there is only one TAG teacher.
    - TAGAC should include the recommendations for what ACPS needs to implement these things in the committee's report.
- When is the 5-year rewrite going to be done, and what is the implementation timeline?

- We are working on two large scopes of the plan-delivery of services and identification procedures.
    - The other items are important, but will not take as long to complete.
  - Dr. Tempel-Milner said that it would be premature to comment on the implementation timeline.
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- The committee discussed the data that was presented during the February meeting

**Old Business:**

- The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

**Chair Closing Remarks**

- There will not be a TAGAC meeting in April.
- The hope is the subcommittee will have their reports by COB on 4/29.
- The next meeting will be via Zoom on May 9, 2022.
- The Chair is looking for nominees or nominations for TAGAC officers and for a student member.
- Subcommittees can set up meetings via Susan Nielson at ACPS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.