

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee
December 13, 2021 Minutes

Meeting: December 13, 2021, via Zoom

Current TAGAC Members Present: Nicholas Miller (Chair), Julia Egy (Secretary), Liza Burrell-Aldana, Daphney Denerville-Davis, Melissa Kuhn, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Mary Beth Walker, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Christopher Suarez

Old Business:

- TAGAC September and November minutes approved.

New Business:

Chair's Opening Remarks

- TAGAC will consider staying virtual for multiple meetings to increase accessibility

Staff Comments - Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner

- Currently TAG designees are screening for TAG eligibility
 - ACPS has 1120 students going through the screening process now either via the automatic referral process or through a portfolio submission process.
- Over the next 2 months, ACPS schools will be screening for TAG eligibility.
 - When the schools complete the process in January 2022 (grades 1-8), notification of TAG eligibility will go out to parents on a rolling basis over the next few weeks.
- ACPS will push to get 4th grade notification earlier given this year's programmatic shift.
 - The district will need to wait for grade cards for kindergarten, in addition to the other data, so kindergarteners will be screened during the first week of February.
 - Screening committees are meeting, and the gifted rating scale (GRS) is approved via the committee.
- ACPS will be sending out appeals information to parents.
 - Parents will then have 10 instructional days to file an appeal if their student was not found to be eligible for TAG services.
 - The 10 instructional days applies to GIA services (K-3) and SAA services (grades 4-8), but for students in 3rd grade going through 4th grade SAA now, the appeals won't be due until May 1, which will allow for additional times for tests, etc., to be assessed.
- TAG Steering Committee will be meeting with principals, etc. to discuss ACPS' TAG philosophy and its definition of giftedness.

- In terms of screening, ACPS made a big push for referrals from Young Scholars participants
 - Dr. Tempel-Milner and staff are working with ACPS' Accountability office to piece together information. Some of this information needs to be collected outside of PowerSchool; therefore, it will be presented during the TAGAC's February meeting.
- Ms. Burrell-Aldana sent an article from the VA TAG advisory committee on increasing diversity in TAG programs in Virginia, which she discussed with the TAGAC.
 - Dr. Tempel-Milner is going to share the article with the committee.
 - Ms. Burrell-Aldana shared the 2017 report.
 - There is a strong focus on working on regulations pertaining to the gifted education program.
- Dr. Tempel-Milner expressed interest in getting public support/thanks for the hard work of the TAG designees

School Board Comments - Representative Chris Suarez

- The School Board is undertaking a review of all School Board committees, and the TAGAC Chair attended.
 - The general consensus is that there will be more check-ins and will be more of a sounding board for the committees.
 - The School Board thanked the TAGAC for the depth of the work that was done last year.
 - There is excitement with the new Board to implement some of the initiatives that have been recommended.
- K-2 literacy was a big piece, push out versus pull-in. That was a conversation before the pandemic and what it will look like as we move out of it.
- Mr. Suarez discussed interest in doing Zoom meetings going forward to increase participation.
 - The TAGAC Chair seconded being able to meet online, and noted the importance of having the technology for breakout rooms for subcommittee discussions, etc.

Draft Scope of Work Review

- All members should be able access documents on the Google Account drive.
- The Scope of Work was approved by the TAGAC.

Subcommittee Assignments

- Ms. Zion Bezu had resigned from the TAGAC. The TAGAC Chair will help with that subcommittee
- The subcommittees will work with ACPS to plan and advertise subcommittee meetings going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.