

Alexandria City Public Schools

Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

September 9 2019 Minutes

Meeting: September 9, 2019, @ James K. Polk Elementary School

Current and Incoming TAGAC Members Present: Zion Bezu, Donna Brearley, Lindsay Clarke, Leigh Dugan, Reese du Pont, Julia Egy, Emily Garrahan, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Kathleen Schoen, Kathleen Sheehy, Christopher Suarez, and Mary Beth Walker

Additional Guests Present: Dr. Gerald Mann, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction; Stacy Palmer, TAG Coordinator at George Washington Middle School; Jessica Hughes, Arthur Smith

Old Business:

Approved June Meeting Minutes and TAGAC By Laws

New Business:

Update from TAGAC Chair, Laura Rose:

- Laura attended the Young Scholars event over the summer in an effort to try to recruit Young Scholars parents to join TAGAC.
- She sent letters to each of the elementary and middle school principals to introduce TAGAC and introduce the TAGAC member with children that attend that particular school. In the event that the school did not have representation on TAGAC, the letter asked for recommendations of potential committee members.

Update from Donna Brearley:

- There is a state conference with the Virginia Association of the Gifted from October 17-19. The theme of the conference is *Linking the Strands of Gifted Education to Provide Equity for All*. Catherine lenzi from Maury Elementary School will be honored as this year's Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted for Region Five. All are welcome to attend the conference. Included is a link to view the schedule and register for the conference:
<https://www.vagifted.org/event/ConfOct2019>
- The School Board will receive the TAGAC Scope of Work and Final Position Papers at the September 12, 2019 School Board meeting.
- ACPS was able to provide the Young Scholars summer program at one site for each level this summer. The elementary students met at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School and the middle school students met at George Washington Middle School.
- Dr. Cash visited ACPS on August 1 and 2 this summer for differentiation training. The training was popular and a cross-functional team from each elementary school attended the training. ACPS is hoping to have Dr. Cash back in October so that additional teachers and staff members

have the opportunity to receive the training as well. Dr. Cash is also planning to visit the middle schools during his October visit. He will focus on Language Arts first for his work with the middle schools.

- During the June presentation, the School Board agreed to shorten the identification window in the fall from 90 days to 45 days to allow identified students to receive services earlier in the school year. TAGAC is hoping to work with Central Office to ensure consistent and timely communication of this change to families. TAGAC is also working to try to get the communication translated into Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic.

Update from Stacy Palmer:

- All of the TAG identified students from science and social studies are now clustered with a teacher at George Washington Middle School.

Dr. Mann provided a brief overview of the High School Project. Included is a link with more information about the High School Project: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/hsproject>

TAGAC also discussed potential changes to the Talented and Gifted Program Indicators. Updated data, though not data with the new suggested indicators, will be available in November 2019.

Chair Report:

Annual Report Summary: