

Alexandria City Public Schools

Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

September 13, 2021 Minutes

Meeting: September 13, 2021, @ ACHS Rotunda

Current and Incoming TAGAC Members Present: Nicholas Miller (Chair), Kathleen Sheehey (Vice Chair), Julia Egy (Secretary), Irene Arevalo, Zion Bezu, Mike Dukes, Melissa Kuhn, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Mary Beth Walker, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner,

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

TAGAC is trying to go paperless per ACPS policy. Meetings will be in-person to the extent possible. A hybrid approach to TAGAC meetings is also being considered. For in-person meetings, social distancing will be required and we will mark the tables for contact tracing purposes.

All TAGAC meeting agendas will be posted on the ACPS website. The next meeting will be on October 18 (the Monday after Columbus Day), and it will be held in the GWMS library. Candidates for the school board will be invited. Our next meeting would normally take place on October 11, but next month it will be a week later due to the holiday.

Updates from Dr. Tempel-Milner, Director of Gifted Services for ACPS

- Dr. Mann is still the Executive Director, and Tiana serves as Dr. Tempel-Milner's specialist.
- The TAGAC Committee's reports have been submitted to Dr. Mann and Dr. Mozingo. The goal is that the Board documents will be shared at the end of the School Board's September meeting, but that is dependent on priorities.
- ACPS is still screening students from last year to determine eligibility for TAG-related services. This has been of benefit because it has allowed Dr. Tempel-Milner to oversee the process. ACPS did universal screening of 1413 students over the summer. Of those students, 1244 were rising 4th graders.
- All 4th graders were screened using 4 data points. Of the students screened, about 10% of them were determined to be TAG eligible for ELA and 8% for Math. These percentages are not

comparable to other years. They are lower. However, one school had 18-20% of kids qualify for TAG services, so the scores are school by school.

- The timeline for screening in the fall is still being evaluated and approved. Once Dr. Tempel-Milner gets approval of the timeline, the information will be communicated to parents. Dr. Tempel-Milner is meeting with TAG designees next week in order to get TAG-related information distributed to parents. Dr. Tempel-Milner meets monthly with the TAG designees who consist of school counselors or assistant principals.
- This year all 1st and 2nd graders will be taking the Naglieri test, and all 3rd and 4th graders will be taking the CogAT. If they previously qualified in 1st or 2nd grade for TAG GIA eligibility, the students will not be required to take the Naglieri. It will instead be optional for those students because the purpose of these tests is to determine TAG eligibility.
- The tests must be done in a school environment rather than at home, so ACPS is still assessing how the Virtual Academy would handle this problem.
- 4th grade students who take the CogAT and are determined to be eligible for TAG services will be able to receive them this fall.

Members of the TAGAC Committee then introduced themselves.

Next, there was a discussion of the TAGAC's Scope of Work for this school year. It is anticipated that the committee will focus on 3 separate areas, and that subcommittees will be formed to work on these issues. Those focus areas are as follows: (1) ACPS's 5-year plan, (2) the continuity of TAGAC services within ACPS, and (3) TAGAC-related advocacy in and out of the classroom.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.