

Alexandria City Public Schools

Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

February 24 2020

Minutes

Meeting: February 24, 2020, @ John Adams Elementary School

Current and Incoming TAGAC Members Present: Zion Besu, Donna Brearley, Lindsay Clarke, Leigh Dugan, Reesy Dupont, Emily Garrahan, Mark Lacy, Asha Mede, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Kathleen Sheehy, Chris Suarez

Additional Guests Present: Daphney Denerville-Davis, Mount Vernon Parent

Old Business:

January meeting minutes were approved.

New Business:

Update from Donna Brearley:

- Governor's Schools applications are finished.
- Dr. Katie McKnight, a colleague of Dr. Cash, has been working with the ELA program at GW and at Hammond. Some of the middle school ELA teachers have agreed to be videotaped so that their methods can be shared with other teachers. She will provide a division-wide training on the March 3 professional development day to a total of 32 teachers- 16 from each school. If viable, ACPS will look to extend the training to the middle school programs at Jefferson-Houston and Patrick Henry. Right now, we are unable to include them because it would be too disruptive to pull teachers out due to their smaller size.
- Donna is waiting for confirmation about whether she will present a TAG update to the school board on March 26.
- The current budget has been passed and includes additional funds for the Young Scholars program. The additional funds will be used for the identification process, adding a Young Scholars point of contact at each school, and other resources. It will not be used for adding staff members. Because the identification process for the Young Scholars program does not include test scores, it requires more effort.
 - o Zion Besu asked if there could be a line item included next year for a counseling resource that has an understanding of the social and emotional needs and concerns of a TAG student.
- ACPS will be up for a state technical review of the Local Plan in September 2021. During that time, the state will evaluate our current plan against state regulations and give ACPS a report card on progress. Ideally, we would have a draft updated plan by the end of the year so that we

can begin the clock on public comments. We are currently in the process of waiting to hear back from senior leadership about a time to meet.

Update from TAGAC Teacher Representative, Leigh Dugan:

- Recently at the vertical meeting for TAG teachers, the group discussed the strengths and areas for growth for the TAG program.

Update from School Board Representative, Chris Suarez:

- There have not been any tailored discussions about the TAG program at recent School Board meetings.
- Chris recommended that the committee review the recent report from the Family Engagement Evaluation that was presented at the February 20th School Board Meeting. The report and presentation can be found [here](#).

Committee Discussion:

- The committee discussed this year's updated data for TAG indicators provided by the Office of Accountability. This year's updated data can be found [here](#).
- The committee also began preliminary discussions about subcommittee work. Kathleen Sheehy recommended that a fifth topic, differences across schools, be added to the four areas of focus currently under consideration (identification, differentiation, counseling, and communications).
- Laura Rose provided a preview of the next few upcoming TAGAC meetings:
 - o March 16 at Samuel Tucker: The accountability office will come to discuss testing environments at ACPS.
 - o April 20 at Douglas MacArthur: Krishna Leyva from the FACE center will come to help the committee understand the FACE center and the services that the center provides to ACPS families.

Chair Report:

Annual Report Summary: