

Date: September 12, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

FROM: Nicholas Miller, Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) Chair

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Frances Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted (TAG) Coordinator

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: SY 2019-2020 Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC)
Scope of Work

SUMMARY

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) will continue its' work to improve the educational and social-emotional needs of Talented and Gifted (TAG) students in ACPS by focusing its efforts on topics including:

1. Following and advocating for the implementation of the SY 2020 updates to the Local Plan;
2. Being vocal contributors to the update of the Local Plan incorporating the recommendations from the 2017 TAG Consultants Report;
3. Examining delivery of services at each level (Elementary, Middle, and High School) and the effectiveness of the academic rigors in the differentiation of the teaching of curriculum offered to TAG students based on their specific and individual needs as well as accountability for the delivery of these services;
4. Examining appropriate identification of ACPS students for TAG services with a specific focus on underrepresented populations and programs; and
5. Focusing on the social and emotional needs of TAG students in ACPS.

BACKGROUND

TAGAC has discussed a number of potential items for its *Scope of Work* for the 2019-2020 school year. This memorandum describes the areas that the Committee may undertake for review and propounding recommendations.

Underlying all of these recommendations is the expectation of improved communications between the students, teachers, faculty, and general public on all of these topics.

TAG Local Plan review

In following its established timeline, the process of reviewing and adopting a revised Local Plan continued in the SY 2017-2018, but due to the new Superintendent only starting as of July 1, 2018, and the need for further study, it was appropriately decided that ACPS would delay revisions to the Local Plan until SY 2018-2019 to allow the results of the audit evaluation and the state's technical review to better inform the process. The new ACPS Superintendent determined the TAG Local Plan should be updated incrementally and the first partial update is due in 2020. TAGAC will continue advising ACPS on appropriate revisions to the new Local Plan by providing input and incorporating results from TAGAC's ongoing evaluations of the TAG program. As outlined in the Annual Report and the attached Sub-Committee Report, TAGAC provides recommendations for all levels within the school system.

Delivery of Services

TAGAC is keenly aware of differences, both real and perceived, in the delivery of services across ACPS and the need to define a sense of continuity both across and between the three traditional segments of education in ACPS. TAGAC will focus on assisting the TAG coordinators and Central Office to work with the principals and teachers on identifying these differences and working to resolve the differences. The goal is to provide equity across the system by establishing the expectation of the level of appropriate services, the communication of those services, and the accountability of that delivery from elementary to graduation for our TAG student population.

Identification for Services

The TAGAC acknowledges issues with our current identification process and intends to focus on identifying ways the TAG identification process for all students is fair, equitable, and universal. This includes investigating testing in native languages, identification in science and social studies, communication about non-traditional referral paths in the community, and examination of other school systems methods for identifying underrepresented populations.

Social and Emotional Needs of TAG Students

TAGAC will strive to offer public education sessions on the social and emotional needs of TAG students. TAGAC will also strive to include topics related to the fundamentals of social and emotional needs into the Local Plan updates and the ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the TAGAC 2019-2020 Scope of Work.

CONTACTS

1. Nicholas Miller, knmiller@gmail.com
2. Donna Brearley, frances.brearley@acps.k12.va.us , 703-619-8024