

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee
September 19, 2022 Minutes

Meeting: September 19, 2022 @ Alexandria City High School, Rotunda

Current TAGAC Members Present: D. Ohlandt (Chair), Megan Tempel-Milner, *guests:* Katie Baker, Evan Smith, Ettasue Harris

Old Business

Approval of Minutes: We need to approve meeting minutes from June 1, 2022 and August 29, 2022; however, we could not vote to approve since a quorum was not present.

New Business

Chair's Remarks:

- Purpose of the meeting is to review the Scope of Work and better understand how the TAG program is implemented at the middle school level
- TAGAC needs members, especially from schools on the west-end of Alexandria, so please try to engage people and let them know about the committee.

Staff remarks (Dr. Tempel-Milner):

- Completed 1st round of interviews for TAG Specialist position. 2nd and 3rd round of interviews will happen 1st week in October.
- There is no secondary specialist, so need to update middle school resources. Dr. TM has been having monthly meetings with middle school TAG teachers to work on professional learning resources and curriculum.
- TAGAC Report has been sent to Ms. Sanders, ACPS Executive Director, for presentation of the end of year report.
- At the elementary (4th & 5th) and middle school levels they are implementing Document Based Questions (DBQs).
- Governors' School applications open up soon. Dr. TM raised concerns about equitable access to this opportunity within ACPS since auditions, as well as being able to go to the program, is heavily dependent on cars.

Presentation by Middle School TAG Teachers,

Stacy Palmer (GW) and Shanel Thomas (Hammond):

- No additional TAG teachers at Jefferson-Houston and Patrick Henry despite them being K – 8 schools.
- Current Services
 - Required to identify and serve K – 12 gifted students
 - Young Scholars – encouraged to take at least 1 honors class in middle school. TAG teachers are looking at data to talk with students in this program who are not taking at least 1 honors class.
 - SAA Identified – Online Courses on case-by-case basis and Honors AP are two ways TAG students are served at the middle school level. In high school there are independent studies, dual-enrollment in college courses, and select students get to participate in the summer residential Governor’s School.
 - Math – is accelerated and creates some concerns about how well math foundations are being understood. This may be detrimental to students.
 - Clusters – GIA and SAA identified students are somewhat clustered together in classes(?)
 - DEP – Identified students still have a DEP in addition to potentially being in accelerated classes. Designed with the student and other stakeholders. May be independent or worked on in groups.
 - No screening in middle school.
- Best Practices
 - Follow the NACG standards
 - Goal is to show academic growth commensurate with abilities
 - Utilize pre-assessments to understand student’s needs
 - Problem Based Learning - how do you apply a subject to a student’s life and community.
 - Equip all teachers to dig deeper into topics, not quick pacing.
 - Provide differentiated resources.
 - Co-teaching.
 - Possible Gifted Models
 - Acceleration
 - Cluster Groupings
 - Curriculum Compacting
 - Differentiation
 - Enrichment
 - Flexible Grouping
 - Building MS Capacity – Monthly meetings, aligning work and curriculum across the school system, reviewing data, and developing resources for all teachers.

Community Comments:

The three community members at the meeting:

- Thought the accelerated math progression was concerning and would like to hear more about the program from the middle school math specialists.
- Wondered if we should have an identification process at the middle school.
- Were curious if identified students' needs were being met with the current structure of the program.

Review Scope of Work:

The 2022 – 2023 proposed scope of work is to:

- Monitor the work being done to update ACPS' Local Plan
- Consider the middle school TAG curriculum and delivery of TAG services and if any TAGAC would recommend any changes.
- Study how to equip, support, and recruit teachers to use differentiated instruction in the delivery of K – 12 education as well as in the delivery of TAG services.

The TAGAC Chair, Dr. D Ohlandt, asked the group to review the SOW and consider any questions or concerns we might have. We will discuss at our next meeting in November and vote on approving the SOW.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm