

## Alexandria City Public Schools

### Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee Guest Speakers Sub-Committee

#### April 6, 2021 Minutes

**Meeting:** April 6, 2021, 8pm @ Zoom Webinar

**TAGAC Members Present:** Zion Bezu, Mark Lacy (chair), Mary Beth Walker

#### **Old Business:**

None – First meeting of the sub-committee

#### **New Business:**

The sub-committee reviewed the task and objective of the speakers.

Mark Lacy shared his thoughts on overall scope: to be relevant and tangible for the ACPS school board and be cognizant to not overlap much with other subcommittees. The sub-committee planned to derive the report from comments and TAGAC discussion from the following speakers presented to the full committee this year:

- *Ms. Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey - President Elect, Va. Assoc. of Gifted Children, Va. Beach Schools.*
- *Dr. Jonathan Plucker - President of the National Association of Gifted Children*
- *Ms. Angela Greene- ACPS Department of Accountability*
- *Ms. Krishna Levya- ACPS Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE)*

Mary Beth Walker suggested to center the sub-committee focus on the themes of “equity” and “access to services”. She stressed that is consistent with Superintendent Hutching’s objectives and broader TAGAC goals this year. The sub-committee agreed to this organizing theme for the sub-committee report.

Zion Bezu mentioned the importance to communications and getting the word out on TAG services and process to all ACPS communities. She cited “flyers” as particularly poor communication method. She noted that parent networks are often the most effective communication means in some sub-groups within ACPS.

Mark Lacy mentioned Dr. Plucker’s comment on success of “ability grouping” might be a worthy topic to for the sub-committee report.

Mary Beth Walker noted a need for flexibility in making TAG services available to all students. Differences between ACPS schools make this an imperative to reach all students. This theme tied will with the “local norms” theme discussed by several of the guest speakers.

The sub-committee discussed responsibilities for drafting the sub-committee report. The sub-committee decided to divide drafting portions for the report to each sub-committee member, then the sub-committee would review the entire draft as a group at the next sub-committee meeting. The portions of the sub-committee report agreed upon around the central “Equity and Access to services” theme are as follows:

- Zion Bezu- Communication, TAG advocacy, and out reach
- Mark Lacy- Identifying TAG students, grouping, universal screening, and local norms
- Mary Beth Walker- Providing services through improved curriculum, flexibility, and socialization

The sub-committee confirmed the next meeting for 27 April 2021 at 8pm and adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.