

**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee**  
**March 2018 Minutes**

**Meeting:** March 19, 2018, @ Tucker Elementary School

**TAGAC Members Present:** Stacie Andersen, Erica Berson, Donna Brearley, Cailin Dore, Leigh Dugan, Julia Egy, Emily Garrahan, Joan Harvath, Mark Lacy, Nicholas Miller, Dr. Mozingo, Gregg Murphy, and Laura Rose.

**Old Business:**

The Chair made a minor correction to the previously approved January 2018 Minutes. Gregg Murphy also offered a special congratulations for the record recognizing TAGAC Member Ana Humphrey for winning the Outstanding STEM Award from the Science Museum of Virginia, which noted her as being a STEM Phenom.

Committee approved February 2018 Minutes.

Mark Lacy suggested an addition to the Program Evaluation section of the *Scope of Work*. Committee approved the *Scope of Work* including the modification.

Laura Rose shared an update regarding TAG advocacy efforts. City Council is currently reviewing the budget and has started to hear from TAG advocates in support of both fully funding the Superintendent's proposed operating budget, as well as the School Board's additional funding request. It was suggested to reach out to Justin Wilson, and potentially City Council members, regarding possible attendance at future TAGAC meetings in order to have an open discussion of TAG within ACPS and its needs.

**New Business:**

Donna Brearley shared that the TAG Steering Committee for recommending revisions to the *Local Plan* has begun to meet and discuss the TAG program. There is a new report published by the Iowa Department of Education called *Identifying Gifted and Talented English Language Learners* that Donna also shared with the Steering Committee and recommended to any TAGAC Member who wished to become informed as to it. Donna and Cailin Dore also reported that the Regional Odyssey of the Mind tournament was held the previous weekend and that there were twenty-five ACPS teams competing. These included teams from Maury, George Washington and MacArthur, all of which won their divisions and will move on to the State finals in April.

The Committee continued its discussions and conclusions on the topics reviewed at the February and March meetings with the Middle/High School and Elementary panels. Due to the feedback from families, it was suggested that ACPS's Central Office provide brief updates to the ACPS community about efforts that are already underway to address concerns with TAG in the Middle Schools.

The Committee concluded by finalizing the format for the *Sub-Committee Reports* due by May. As a reminder, the substance for each Sub-Committee's eventual *Report* will be the subject of discussion and refinement as to its findings at the April TAGAC meeting.

#### **Annual Report Summary:**

The *Scope of Work* for the year was revised due to a re-direction by TAGAC in its efforts to better understand the evolution and efficacy of TAG programs within ACPS, looking particularly at articulating necessary recommendations and setting realistic goals and objectives for the future. TAG advocacy efforts continued to be monitored, as well as the successes within ACPS that spoke to the achievements of its students. Continuing efforts were embarked upon in order ensure that the School Board would be presented by year's end with a realistic appraisal of TAG within ACPS and given recommendations that would serve, benefit and enhance its programs to challenge its students to the fullest extent of their ability. Moreover, emphasis was also placed again on identification of those with TAG potential and toward providing them with the resources to succeed at a TAG academic level. Finally, renewed concern was raised over the ineffectiveness of communications as to the availability of what TAG offered to the community generally as it was noted that this continuing problem was yet to be resolved.