

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee
May 9, 2022 Minutes

Meeting: May 9, 2022, via Zoom

Current TAGAC Members Present: Nicholas Miller (Chair), Kathleen Sheehy (Vice Chair), Julia Egy (Secretary), Maria Irene Arevalo, Andrew Corso, Daphne Denerville-Davis, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Mary Beth Walker, Liza Burrell-Aldana, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Willie F. Bailey, Sr.

New Business:

Chair's Opening Remarks

- The minutes from the March TAGAC meeting will be voted upon during the committee's June meeting because they were not posted in time.
- The TAGAC's Chair and Vice Chair will not be coming back, so those positions need to be filled.
 - D. Ohlandt accepted the nomination for TAGAC Chair, and Daphne Denerville-Davis accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.
 - The committee voted to elect both for the 2022-2023 school year.

Staff Comments - Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner

- Screening updates - 3rd graders are going through the appeals process for SAA services,
 - The appeal will take place during a meeting on May 25.
 - ACPS is taking a second look at 3rd grade and 4th grade data.
 - Because ACPS is now using electronic screening, the district can look at students with automatic scores, as well as spring and winter MAP scores to see if there are kids who need a second look.
 - ACPS can also reassess those who are going through the appeals process.
 - In those situations there may not be a need for the MAP scores because the students qualified based on the additional data.
 - This allows ACPS to ensure that the district is not missing more qualified students.
 - TAG designees in ACPS schools were given that data last week and if that changes anything for students, notices to those parents will be issued.
- ACPS moved to electronic TAG-related screening this year, and Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner believes it was a big success.
 - Her goal for the summer is to do the analysis of how students entered the pool.

- Her office will also meet with the technology department to do a review of how TAG-related screening went this year.
- While it wasn't fully electronic, ACPS wants to see what went well and how the district can expand.
 - 85-90% of families submitted referrals on PowerSchool and it went better than expected. ACPS did have a workaround for families who couldn't get on to PowerSchool, and then this was later uploaded to PowerSchool. This will allow ACPS to better track TAG-related data.
- ACPS' TAG office is hiring.
 - The office has a 1.0 and a .7 position, and we've had huge success with the candidates.
 - We're in the process of extending offers.
- ACPS is still updating the local plan.
 - The TAG Steering Committee is helping with this.
 - The work of the Steering Committee is deeply philosophical. ACPS currently has 3 TAG-focused committees.
 - There have been 9 cohort meetings working on ACPS's local plan, as well as 2 parent meetings.
 - The Steering Committee's work will continue over the summer and into the fall.
 - The Steering Committee has a draft for a parent advisory group, which will be shared at the June meeting.
- A university reached out about a Javitz grant.
 - As background, there is no federal funding for gifted education, so the Javitz grant was initiated.
 - A university reached out and if that university gets the Javitz grant it will go through ACPS's accountability checks and we will be able to join in on the work regarding Tier 1 and access for all kids.
- Also Tiana Dominick is currently working with a curriculum resource list.
 - This has always existed, but it hadn't always been by grade and subject. So it shows what differentiated resources we have now, and what we want to look at bringing into our school system.
 - Ms. Dominick is finishing 3rd grade. She will then move to first and second grade.
- Next year our TAG teachers will be taking a Math workshop model professional learning series. It will also be presented to math teachers across the district. There will be training for those teachers.
- Dr. Tempel-Milner's office is also helping 10 AP teachers attend 4 days of training.
- ACPS continues to have UVA endorsement, which allows teachers to earn it for free.

Mary Beth Walker, on the Parent Committee/TAG Steering Committee

- The parent committee is focused on the definition of giftedness and the philosophy.
 - The parent committee wants to ensure rigor for all; and the need for advanced academics and social emotional support is intended to be encompassed into the definition of giftedness and the philosophy of the TAG Steering Committee.

Old Business:

- Review of TAGAC's Year End Report
- The TAGAC will vote on the Year End Report during the June meeting, as well as voting on the outstanding meeting minutes (March and May). A quorum will be needed.

Chair Closing Remarks

- The meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.