

Alexandria City Public Schools

Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

June 15, 2020 Minutes

Meeting: June 15, 2020, @ Zoom Webinar

Current and Incoming TAGAC Members Present: Zion Besu, Donna Brearley, Daphney Denerville-Davis, Leigh Dugan, Reesy du Pont, Emily Garrahan, Mark Lacy, Asha Mede, Nicholas Miller, Dr. Gerald Mann, Susan Neilson, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Kathleen Sheehy, Chris Suarez, Mary Beth Walker

Old Business:

February meeting minutes were approved.

New Business:

Update from Donna Brearley:

- Donna provided a TAG update (originally scheduled for the end of March) during the June 5th board meeting. A link to the update can be found [here](#).
- TAG has been a part of the discussion in each iteration of the Continuity of Learning Plans.
- We have recently obtained approval to group Young Scholars students with a Young Scholars teacher over the summer. We have started the hiring process for Young Scholars teachers.
- Due to the school closure, the spring screening process has been delayed until the fall. Any automatic referrals that could have been processed based on data through the third quarter are currently in progress. The team has continued to hear appeals and conduct interviews during this time at home as well. In the fall, the team will use first quarter data to generate additional automatic referrals. At the end of the first quarter, parents will be able to refer until the tentative deadline of January 28, 2021.
- The Local Plan is still under discussion. Donna has also been working with the EL team to enhance testing and look for an alternate pathway. She hopes to bring together a small elementary school task force to revisit the elementary school model.

Update from TAGAC Teacher Representative, Leigh Dugan:

- Leigh shared that teachers had a harder time reaching K-2 GIA students since the TAG teachers did not have access to the Google Classroom accounts for those children. TAG teachers worked with homeroom teachers for K-3 GIA services to provide input and extension ideas. TAG SSA services at the elementary school continued to be provided.

Committee Discussion:

- o Committee members provided personal feedback and experiences regarding distance learning as a result of COVID-19. The committee raised the possibility of pairing high

school students with middle school students and middle school students with elementary school students to provide mentorship opportunities. The committee also raised the possibility of recording engaging speakers that could be shared across schools and to the entire school population instead of just TAG-identified students.

- Members also discussed opportunities for identifying and addressing racial inequities within the TAG program. The Committee would like to meet over the summer to continue these conversations and efforts. ACPS will release both the 2025 Strategic Plan and the Plan for Re-Opening Schools in the coming weeks.
- Committee members will review the end of year report and provide comments and feedback to the chair.

Chair Report:

Annual Report Summary: