

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee
February 7, 2022 Minutes

Meeting: February 7, 2022, via Zoom

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

Old Business:

- The minutes from the December and January meetings were approved.

New Business:

Chair's Opening Remarks

- We will be listening to ACPS' Accountability Office tonight. There will also be staff comments and then a subcommittee working session.

Staff Comments - Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner

- Tentative TAG Screening numbers: 1125 students are up for referral or going through automatic screening this year, which is more than usual.
- ACPS provided an extension for responses from parents for grades 1-8.
 - The extension was needed for a variety of reasons, including children in quarantine, which caused testing delays.
 - In addition, many staff members on the screening committees were also in quarantine or had to oversee classrooms due to staffing shortages.
- ACPS is still looking for a ½ time position for the TAG itinerant teacher.
 - The candidate needs to be a current teacher who is interested in working part-time.
- TAG Steering Committee is currently reviewing their philosophy and getting background information on TAG education and what changes ACPS might need to make.
 - There is another Steering Committee tomorrow.
 - ACPS has also looked to engage the help of consultants who focus on equity issues.
 - Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner is hoping to meet with all of them in the next week or 2 to ensure that ACPS is following best practices in gifted education.
- TAG Referral Forms
 - When parents submit their referral form, they can select Math, Science, Social Studies (SS), Language Arts (LA), or even General Intellectual Aptitude (GIA).

- For Science and SS, there is no automatic referral, parents must use referral form for the other subjects.
 - ACPS only provides automatic referral for Math and LA.
 - If a parent has questions, they should reach out to the TAG designee at their school
 - TAG Referral-related grade range changed this year.
 - The grade range in the past was 3.0.
 - It is now a 4.0, but multiple quarters are viewed.
 - Third and fourth quarter from last year, and first quarter from this year.
 - The grades have to be assessed in addition to other metrics because not all students are being graded on whether their performance at their current grade level.
 - For instance, some students might be performing below their grade level for reading, but they will be graded on their performance for whatever grade level they are currently being assessed.
 - For a TAG referral to take place, students must be performing at or above grade level.
 - Automatic referrals for Science and SS
 - Currently, ACPS has mostly differentiated instruction for Science and SS, although ACPS could consider automatic referrals in the future.
 - There is more data showing a need for TAG services for Math and LA.
 - To do more Science and SS-related referrals, ACPS would need to do additional testing.

ACPS TAGAC School Board Representative Comments - Willie F. Bailey, Sr.

- ACPS' budget adoption will take place on February 10, and it will then be shared with the City Council on March 10.

Principal Liaison Comments - Liza Burrell-Adams

- The VA Advisory Committee is meeting again in April.
- The prior meeting was delayed due to the new administration, given that the new administration's priorities might impact gifted education.
 - She would be happy to update the TAGAC at that time

Guest Lecturer from ACPS' Accountability Office - Tina Constantine

- Provided statistics and data regarding performance of TAG-identified students in ACPS.

Dr. Tempel-Milner - Discussion ACPS' 5-year Plan

- Data today is telling us that ACPS has students who need a high-quality education, but we are not reaching everyone.
 - ACPS needs to examine how we are identifying and serving students.
- The TAG Steering Committee wants to explore rethinking giftedness and the definition of it.
 - The move would be from Gifted and Talented to Advanced Academic Services
 - Dr. Tempel-Milner will send a copy of the slides to the TAGAC.

Chair Closing Remarks

- The next meeting will be via Zoom on March 14, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.