

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

June 7, 2021 Minutes

Meeting: June 7, 2021, @ Zoom Webinar

Current TAGAC Members Present: Zion Bezu, Daphne Denerville-Davis, Leigh Dugan, Reese du Pont, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Kathleen Sheehy, Julia Egy, Asha Mede, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Mary Beth Walker, Melissa Kuhn, Chris Suarez, Nicholas Miller, Emily Garrahan, Mike Dukes, Amna Shamseldin

Old Business:

The committee approved the May 10th Meeting Minutes.

New Business:

Chair Laura Rose thanked committee members for their service on the TAGAC this year.

Dr. Tempel-Milner provided the Staff update:

- ACPS is still awaiting guidance from the Virginia Department of Education regarding the implementation of the Virginia Math Pathway Initiative
- Dr. Tempel-Milner met in recent weeks with Dr. Jack Naglieri to learn about his revised assessment which now includes both Quantitative and Linguistic sections while still maintaining the nonverbal format. National norming is still being done on this test. Next year, the TAGAC may choose to discuss using the revised NNaT to screen 3rd graders for Subject Specific Identification (Math and LA).
- Screening for new eligibility has continued this spring with some rising 4th grade students taking the CogAT. Dr. Tempel-Milner expressed concerns that there are some gaps in the portfolio work samples that were submitted by all 1st and 3rd grade students. In the interest of equity, she is recommending that ACPS pause the current evaluations of portfolios and implement a true Universal Screening when students return to school in the fall. This would include:
 - In Fall of 2021, all entering 1st and 2nd graders will take the NNaT, and all entering 3rd and 4th graders will take the CogAT test.
 - Dr. Tempel-Milner is working with Accountability to develop a system where multiple data points (including MAP test scores, previous NNaT scores, progress reports, SOL scores) come together to give a fuller picture of each child and their potential needs for advanced academics.
 - For the time being, National Norms will be used for qualification, but local and/or school norms can be a topic of discussion and recommendation for next year's TAGAC

- Dr. Tempel-Milner hopes to have all parents notified (in multiple languages) by mid-July of student placement for Subject Specific Identification (Math and LA) [primarily rising 4th graders]

The committee voted to approve the Student Voices subcommittee report, as well as have the TAG PTAC Presentation included with the TAGAC annual report.

Committee Business:

none

Thinking Ahead:

- There is a tentative meeting on June 21st, 2021 to vote to approve remaining subcommittee reports for the annual TAGAC report.