

**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee**  
**November 17, 2020 Minutes**

**Meeting:** November 17, 2020, @ Zoom Webinar

**Current TAGAC Members Present:** Zion Bezu, Donna Brearley, Daphney Denerville-Davis, Tiana Dominick, Leigh Dugan, Reese du Pont, Emily Garrahan, Mark Lacy, Dr. Gerald Mann, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Kathleen Sheehy, Mary Beth Walker, Nicholas Miller, Lindsay Clarke, Julia Egy, Asha Mede, Asmerom Yakob

**Old Business:**

The committee approved the October 14<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.

**New Business:**

The committee heard Dornswalo Wilkins-McCorey, Gifted Coordinator at VA Beach Public Schools and President-Elect of the Virginia Association of the Gifted, give a presentation on the pilot program SMPG (SENG [Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted] Model Parent Groups being run in Virginia Beach Public Schools.

Wilkins-McCorey introduced the basics of the program, which at its heart is a 6-week book study of *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*. The program was piloted with parents from 17 Title 1 schools with the aim of helping them understand and support their children as well as develop a richly supporting community of parents of gifted learners. One takeaway from the pilot program was that parent support groups can be helpful for all parents. Another is that the Affective Domain of gifted students is one that needs to be tended and supported, and that social and emotional challenges are normal in what she termed "gifted land".

Update from Donna Brearley:

- This will be her last meeting as ACPS TAG Coordinator pending her retirement; Tiana Dominick has been named Interim TAG Coordinator.
- TAG materials have been included in the learning packets that were delivered to the schools this week.
- Recent focus has been on refining the portfolio identification process and working out how they will be practically implemented.
- Odyssey of the Mind is continuing, but perhaps on a smaller scale this year than last.
- A report on teacher diversity in gifted/honors programming will be made available for review by the committee in the coming month.

## Housekeeping

- A few dates to keep in mind:
  - Dr. Jonathan Plucker's presentation to the committee has been rescheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>. He will talk to the committee about Equity in Gifted Education
  - The December TAGAC business meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>

## Committee Discussion:

- Laura Rose advised the committee that she had spoken with the PTAC Diversity and Inclusion Committee and there may be an opportunity to partner with them on shared topics of interest, including representation on the committee from traditionally underrepresented schools/populations within the schools
- There were anecdotal updates on Virtual Learning regarding TAG services
  - D Ohlandt reported that great things were happening at Cora Kelly regarding differentiation for GIA.
  - Zion Bezu called out Hammond Middle School for an excellent after school Science Fair Club.
  - Mary Beth Walker reported that George Mason will begin services for GIA students this week via Zoom.
  - Tiana Dominick reported that YS identification will start tomorrow at the schools with new programs, and that she has plans to meet with principals following the Thanksgiving holiday.
  - Asmerom Yakob reported that the Ramsay SSA programs in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are providing lots of online resources to challenge learners.