

**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee**

**September Minutes**

**Meeting: September 14, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.**

**TAGAC Members Present:** Alex Griffin, Donna Brearley, Steve Lally, Pam Jones, Amanda Eisenhouer, Justin Keating, Nicholas Miller, Alexis Stackhouse, Stacy Hayden, Ashley Chappell

**Guests:** Jen Podgorski, April Riser, Zion Bezu

**Public Comments:** None

**Chair's Report:**

Mrs. Griffin went over Committee Norms. Please see attached document for these. If you need to get in touch with her, it is best to email or text her for a faster response.

Ms. Hayden will be taking notes during meetings.

**ACPS Updates:**

Mrs. Brearley updated the committee on middle school information. Ms. Riser, the new Middle School TAG Teacher was hired at Hammond. This summer, Mrs. Brearley and the middle school TAG teachers have been working to implement recommendations made by the TAG committee from last year.

Mrs. Brearley updated the committee about the following at the middle school (MS) level:

- Dr. Mann has been working on clustering. Some clusters are as high as 18 students. In classes where a student is only clustered with one or two other identified students, parent notification is being sent home. Parents then have the option to leave their child in that class or move them.
- MS DEP (differentiated education plan) is under development. It was worked on over the summer. It is currently receiving teacher feedback and after that is complete it will be receiving parent feedback. Finally, the

hope is to have them sent out for TAG students enrolled in honors courses for the second quarter.

-Many professional development opportunities for Middle School teachers are being offered. This is to help ensure all teachers teaching honors courses are knowledgeable about differentiation strategies. Mrs. Brearley is also hoping to bring in a secondary differentiation expert this year.

-Dr. Mann has determined that the advisory period clustering/programming isn't feasible because of 15 minute length and team dynamics.

-Both MS TAG teachers have websites with resources for students.

-Mrs. Brearley is working with IT for a TAG parent email distribution list.

Mrs. Brearley and Ms. Hayden also updated TAGAC on the Young Scholars program:

-Explanation of the Program

-Modeling our implementation after Fairfax County Public Schools Young Scholars Model which has 15 years of research.

-Currently at Patrick Henry, Polk, Mount Vernon Community School, and Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology.

-Each principal decides what grades to identify in. They are then asked to cluster their YS.

-Dr. Crawley will decide if they program continues to expand.

-Updates on Summer Program & School Year Services

-Ms. Hayden shared information from the Young Scholars Summer Academy. Sites for the program were Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology and Patrick Henry. MVCS students attended CK and Polk students attended PH.

-Students who were in the first year of the program studied wetlands as a system. Students who were returning for their second year studied coastal erosion as a system.

-New components that were added included an environmental educator storyteller component, growth mindset lessons, increased access to technology with digital cameras for the students, and new field trips.

-Schools also held a family night in which students presented projects that were completed during the summer program.

-Schools will be working with Young Scholars students during the school year to extend the learning.

-Additionally, two professional development opportunities are being offered for teachers. One is an introduction to the Young Scholars program. The second workshop is called Nurturing Young Scholars and is for Young Scholars teachers and any other teachers to learn differentiation techniques for high ability learners.

**Scope of Work Exercise:**

TAGAC attendees participated in a Scope of Work exercise in order to better understand our goals for this year. Ms. Griffin will include an overview of our responses.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

## **TAGAC Chair Meeting Norms**

**September 14, 2015**

- Please RSVP if you will not be able to attend the meeting. There will also be a sign-in sheet at the meeting; attendance is recorded. To remain an active TAGAC member, you must attend 75% of the meetings.
- Meetings will run from 7:00-9:00. Meetings will start on time and end on time.
- If, at 9:00 the group feels a particular discussion needs more time, I will ask the TAGAC if we should continue or table the conversation until the next meeting.
- All Committee members have a right and a responsibility to speak up. To do so in an orderly fashion, I ask members to raise their hand.
- If you have already stated a point, please allow others to provide input before you state another point.
- As Chair and facilitator, there may be times when I will need to cut short a speaker or a conversation. Please be mindful not to monopolize a discussion, or talk over others.
- One of the requirements of the TAGAC is to record minutes. Therefore, I will ask someone to volunteer to be minute-taker. Minutes can be bullets, key points or highlights; they don't need to record exact conversations. However, they should be completed and returned to me for distribution to the TAGAC within 10 days of the meeting.
  - Secretary for entire year, or on a rotational basis
- If there are issues or concerns, please always feel free to contact me.
- Please provide suggestions for topics, sessions, speakers – all are welcome!