

Alexandria City Public Schools
Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

May Minutes

Meeting: May 16, 2016

TAGAC Members Present: Donna Brearley, Stacy Hayden, Amanda Eisenhour, Alex Griffin, Steve Lally, Alexis Stackhouse, Pam Jones, Steve Gordon, Nicholas Miller, Renee Reynolds, Gregg Murphy, Christopher Lewis, Suad Al Halabi

Missing: Ashley Chappell, Zion Bezu, Scott Oswald

Guests: Terri Mozingo, Clinton Page, Tina Constantine

Old Business:

New Business:

TAGAC Elections

Elections were held. Elected positions are as follows:

Chair: Alex Griffin

Secretary: Amanda Eisenhour *

*Will be shared with Stacy Hayden so that minutes are taken at every other meeting by each person.

Alexis Stackhouse will be running as Vice Chair. This will be voted on in the fall at the first TAGAC Meeting.

ACPS Updates:

Talented and Gifted Proposed Annual Indicators

ACPS Officials came to talk to TAGAC about the annual report. As mentioned at the last meeting, the Virginia Board of Education has a statute that calls for a review of the plan. Additionally, it mentions that each school division can establish a local advisory committee who reviews the plan, which is TAGAC.

ACPS reviewed previous conversations with TAGAC, national trends, and other local plans to determine the Accountability Indicator Proposal. With the local plans from other districts, they created a table to show the accountability indicators. This can be found in the Accountability Indicator Proposal. TAGAC

discussed that the accountability indicators we will be using in comparison to other districts is quite impressive.

Mr. Page mentioned that when look at the data areas that they plan to look at, we must remember that some come in at various times. This first year they will plan to get us all of the data by November 30th. We also need to remember that data is best viewed longitudinally. Everywhere they can, they are trying to compile data from the past two years so that TAGAC will have three years of data. By getting all of the data sets on the accountability indicators at the same time, TAGAC will be able to do a very in depth analysis.

TAGAC discussed that it would be nice to not only see division wide, TAG identified, subgroup data, but that it would be helpful to see school by school. Mr. Page responded that in most cases numbers are too small to share data since it can identify individual students. TAGAC discussed potentially adding a line under that table (Table #2) that this cannot be done, just in case anyone reviewing the data wondered why it was not included. Mr. Page will consider this if possible with notes where it cannot be included because numbers are too small.

Questions also came up about disproportionality and different ways to measure it. Mr. Page explained that ACPS looks at percentages of students represented in the subgroup in both the TAG Pool and the Total Enrollment. As an example, if they both equal 20%, it would be considered proportionate.

One TAGAC member brought up the point that if you are trying to match the population demographics, then that works. However, you could also look at it differently by looking at the percentage within the population. Especially since you would expect to see 3-4% of each population identified.

Mr. Page mentioned that since as a district we report proportionality in one way all information must be reported in the same way. This is done the same way when looking at school suspensions, chronic absenteeism, etc. However, TAGAC will have information to be able to do this on our own if we would like.

TAGAC also asked to see if there was any way that the tables could also be presented as charts or graphs. Mr. Page responded that their goal was to get this data to us as fast as possible, and that adding charts would add to the timeline needed. They will take this into advisement and see if it can happen, but it is not guaranteed. Regardless, TAGAC will be able to use this data to create graphs/charts for the Annual Report/ Memorandum if they would like.

One TAGAC member mentioned that he would like to see the programs from Table 2 added to Table 5 as well. Mr. Page said that he would be able to do this, however data may be limited at first.

One TAGAC member also mentioned that it may be more helpful to disaggregate data at the high school level within the disciplines by course when it comes to SOLs. Mrs. Brearley mentioned that this data would be very helpful, but the numbers may be too small. Additionally, Mr. Page mentioned that ACPS is currently taking a global approach of how our TAG students are doing in a global domain (history vs. math, etc.). He also confirmed that in some of the areas in high school these numbers are too small.

With Table 7, TAGAC discussed adding percentage of identified TAG students enrolled in the course to the table. One TAGAC member mentioned that this data may be confusing. For instance, because there is only one AP math course available at the high school level, it would seem like students are not taking advantage of opportunities, when there are not opportunities.

Mr. Page also mentioned that after we receive this first set of data if there are things that we would like changed, TAGAC and ACPS can have that discussion. TAGAC is very thankful to the Office of Accountability for assisting us with our request for data and giving us such a comprehensive set of information!

Chair Update:

Memorandum & Scope of Work

TAGAC had a group work session on the scope of work. Please check the Google Drive link that was sent out for this information. Mrs. Griffin suggested that we all collaborate online and approve it online. She will need a final approval from everyone. Once this happens, we will submit the memorandum. We can then determine recommendations from the data we receive and submit them in May. This will be able to inform the annual report.

TAGAC discussed adding High School to the memorandum and made changes to the draft memorandum. Please check Google Drive to see the changes and add input.

Wrap-Up:

We are done meeting for the 2015-2016 SY! Please be sure to keep an eye out on your email to approve the scope of work for next year.

TAGAC also discussed that we would be very busy next year and it will be helpful to create sub committees. Keep this in mind this summer. See you in the Fall!