

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Board Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Called to Order: 9:05 am

I. President's Report

- o Welcome to all attending. Introduced the Teaching and Learning Specialists from Pilgrim Park Middle School (Deb Moore) and from Wisconsin Hills Middle School (Emily Pratt)

II. GT Coordinator's Report (Peggy Reimer/Dr. Rae McClain)

- o Northwestern University Opportunities
 - Northwestern University's AWE (Accelerated Weekend Experience) winter classes for grades 5-8 scheduled for February 28-March 1 were a huge success. Parents felt it was a great opportunity for GT kids to meet others with similar interests.
 - Spring AWE weekend experience will be May 30-31 from 9am-2:30pm. The class offering for grades 5-8 is MIT App Inventor and Design Studio will be offered for grades 7-8. Information has been posted on the district site and announcements have been posted at district schools.
 - The hope for next year is to offer 3 sessions of AWE classes — fall, winter and spring.
- o SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)
 - Rae and Peggy attended SENG training in January and are now nationally certified to run a SENG parent group in the district.
 - A typical parent group will involve 8-10 parents, include a nominal fee and run for 8-10 weeks. The group will meet 1/week for 90 minutes and discuss 10 pre-set topics that correspond to a common discussion book. Rae/Peggy hope to have a spring group that would meet during the daytime and another group this fall that would meet in the evening.

III. GT at the Middle School Level (Dr. Rae McClain/Deb Moore/Emily Pratt)

- o New Middle School Schedule
 - Schedule for 2015/16 school year: 4 core classes (math/science/social studies/english-language arts) which will all run 70 minutes and 2 electives which will be 49 minutes each.
 - Electives will be music/phy ed (on alternating days) and then all students will rotate for 1 quarter each through Art/Computers/Family and Consumer Science/Applied Technology and Engineering.
 - Thursday early release will look slightly different. Core classes will be 40 minutes, electives will be 45 minutes and there will be a 28 minute STP (Student Teacher Period). This is a guided study period and provides students an opportunity to access any of their teachers.

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o Math Curriculum

- There are 3 options for 6th graders.
 - 1- enroll in Math 6/6th grade math (this would be the standard progression from 5th to 6th grade)
 - 2- enroll in Math 7: 6th grade honors/7th grade math (there are recommendations given regarding WKCE and MAP test scores but this is a parent/student choice ultimately)
 - 3- Math 8 (double acceleration) Enrollment in this class requires students be identified as GT and have a teacher recommendation from the students 5th grade math teacher. Students may not choose this option but rather will be recommended and placed as appropriate.

IV. Standardized Testing

o Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing

- Test will be administered 3 times/year in 6th, 7th and 8th grade

o Badger 3-8: Wisconsin's Smarter Balanced Assessment

- The summative assessment will be administered during the last 8 weeks of the school year for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.
- Tests are administered in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- Reports generated from this testing will show student achievement and progress toward mastery of the Common Core State Standards.

o Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE)

- Tests in science and social studies will be administered to students in 8th grade in the fall of the school year.
- Reports generated provide information about student attainment of subject-area proficiency.

V. The floor was opened for questions. The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.