

Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Called to Order: 9:04 am Room set for 200 in lecture style

President's Report:

Mary Brewer welcomed parents back to school and introduced Parent Representatives from Brookfield, Dixon, Swanson and Tonawanda Elementary Schools.

She reported that representatives from Burleigh Elementary had been identified and were pending. They will likely be available by the next meeting.

Activities Reports:

Beth Kumer presented

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)

SENG has parent groups, webinars, an annual conference as well as publications.

Upcoming SENG events are 9/23: The Anxious Family: What to Do when Everyone Frets and 10/7: Asperger's is Awesome.

Jen Beug-Hoffman & Mary Brewer

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend WATG conferences. The keynote speaker this year is, Diane Heacox. The cost for parents to attend is very reasonable. Parents who join WATG for \$15 a year get a special daily conference rate and get the WATG rate for overnight stays.

CESA 1 PAGE

A special event, hosted by CESA 1 PAGE is scheduled for October 23rd at 6:30pm. It will be held at Brookfield East High School. Dr. Sylvia Rimm will present "Guiding Gifted Children Toward Achievement." Dr. Sylvia Rimm is a much lauded child psychologist who has written many books and articles about child behavior.

PAB representatives are revising documents including a helpful list of acronyms and a calendar of special GT related events across the school year. Look for new posts on the GT PAB webpage soon.

New Business:

Extra-Curricular Activity Boxes Were Introduced

Mary Brewer presented and explained the Extra-Curricular Activity Boxes that will go to each Teaching and Learning Specialist at each of the elementary schools. These boxes were created so that parents of all students could see the array of activities outside the school day that can be performed if there were parent volunteers to help.

District

Tanya Fredrich, Director Student Services, revisited the goals for the GT Programming Review. She reminded listeners that only two of the eight recommended components of the review conducted by Dr. Scott Peters had been completed. The completed components were the hiring of two new GT Coordinators and the revision of the Policy Statement and the Practice Statement. Tanya urged parents to make contact with their school's Teaching and Learning Specialist for specific questions regarding their children. Parents can also contact the parent representative at their school.

The remaining six recommendations including implementation of GT Plan that is required by the State of Wisconsin will be developed over the next three years. The recommendations include: Program options for identified students; Individualized student planning and monitoring; Socio-emotional needs and increased retention of students with talents and gifts; Professional development for staff; Consistent and effective communication; and, Ongoing annual program evaluation.

The Action Plan for 2014-15 that will focus on tapping additional teachers

The new Gifted and Talented Coordinators introduced themselves as a team. Both women are school psychologists and have worked together in the district more than 30 years combined. They have both started classes at UW Whitewater where they will earn GT certification by the spring of 2016.

Peggy Riemer, will be responsible for grades 9-12 and have office space and scheduled hours at both high schools. Peggy outlined her action plan for High School. She will be focusing on increasing program awareness; collaborating with school counselors; communicating between parents, teachers and students; developing school base data teams; professional development as well as collecting and reviewing data to evaluate student outcomes.

Dr. Rae McClain will be the coordinator for grades K-8. She will have her desk at Pilgrim Park, but she will serve all the elementary and middle schools. Rae began by outlining her action plan for K-8. She will be focusing on working with educators over the data piece for identification; facilitating communication between parents, teachers and students professional development as well as resources and enrichment.

Jason VanRoo was also introduced. He has agreed to a new position as Creative and Fine Arts Specialist. He will help students with artistic portfolios and will work with the STEM program.

Discussion was opened.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57am.