

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

February Minutes

Meeting: February 22, 2016

TAGAC Members Present: Zion Bezu, Saud Al Halabi, Gregg Murphy, Scott Oswald, Donna Brearley, Stacy Hayden, Amanda Eisenhour, Alex Griffin, Christopher Lewis, Renee Reynolds, Steve Gordon, Pam Jones, Nicholas Miller, Steve Lally

Guests: JC Herz, Ramee Gentry, Terri Mozingo

Old Business:

- February 2016 minutes approved.
- Annual Report changed by adding in responses from ACPS last year that were included in the memorandum.
- Annual Report approved.

Public Comments:

None.

Chair Reports:

General Updates

Mrs. Griffin has been working with others to determine what the TAG Evaluation will look like and the data they will be collecting. She has been analyzing the KPIs (key performance indicators) to see that they align with what TAGAC is doing. So far, she has seen that a lot of the KPIs are what TAGAC has recommended through different mediums, such as memorandums and annual reports.

Mrs. Griffin also met with Chairman Graf, to discuss different topics. One of the most important things they discussed is the upcoming evaluation and the importance of getting it done. Her goal is to continue to make sure that lines of communication are open and that we help the School Board as much as possible.

Data Discussion with Clinton Page

Mrs. Griffin shared that she also met with Clinton Page, Department of Accountability. Although we had a good dialogue with him at the last TAGAC meeting, many questions were not answered in the short time we had. Clinton Page provided answers to all questions with

exception to the ones about professional development. Those answers were provided by Mrs. Brearley. Mrs. Brearley noted that in her answers she used the school year of 2012 as a baseline for the data. All of the answers to our questions were provided in a document to TAGAC.

TAGAC discussed if SAT scores are a good indicator of TAG student success. Concern was brought up over if this makes sense. The question discussed was if this would show change over time or if analyzing SAT scores would show us progress over time. By looking at the SAT scores, we would be able to see if the changes in differentiation/ services positively impact our SAT scores as a whole group. Mrs. Griffin also discussed the use of SAT data with Mr. Page.

TAGAC brought up the discussion again of using SAT versus other testing data, such as SRI/ SMI. Dr. Mazingo shared that because there were issues with the SMI, ACPS is reluctant to encourage use of the SRI since it is the same vendor. Many districts across the nation have not just stopped using the SMI but both the SMI and the SRI.

Dr. Mazingo shared that the TAG Evaluation will be coming and part of it will analyze our evaluation tools and what we should consider looking at instead so that our data measures what we would like it to.

Middle School Recommendations

TAGAC was provided with an update on the Middle School Recommendations from Mrs. Brearley. Please read over it for updates.

ACPS Updates:

ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan and KPIs

Donna Brearley and Terri Mazingo shared information with TAGAC about the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan and also the Key Performance Indicators (KPI). They shared the ones that are in the ACPS 2020 Scorecard that are specific to TAG students only. One of the areas that they are really looking at includes the disproportionality within our K-5 TAG Identification. The data that Mr. Page shared at our December meeting shows that we are making progress, but we still can continue to make this better.

There are also some KPIs that are collected for the overall student population that include TAG students. These could possibly be disaggregated out to give us more information about our TAG students. The KPIs that were mentioned can be found in the document that was given to TAGAC with the School Board Questions Document that we received.

TAGAC was also interested in looking at the KPI that involves the ACT Performance Composite. We would like to see if there is a possible way to look at this data by performance in math, reading, and writing separately.

Surveys

TAGAC discussed that there are two different surveys that are going out. One is called #YourVoiceCounts which is a curriculum survey. This closes on the 29th of February. Soon, there will also be an Insight Survey that is going at as well.

Evaluation

TAGAC also discussed the TAG Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the full external program evaluation. Potential areas for coverage include:

- Screening, referral and identification
- Review of assessments (NNAT2, CoGat, SRI, etc.)
- Student achievement
- Teacher support and professional development
- Service delivery
- Stakeholder perceptions of programmatic success
- Retention of TAG Middle school students in the transition from elementary to middle

Screening & Testing for GIA Services

TAGAC also discussed the NNAT and CoGAT. ACPS administers the NNAT in first grade and the CoGAT to every third grade student. This is a screener, but students can also be identified in Kindergarten or Second Grade for GIA services as well. In case where students are referred in grade K or 2, the psychologist may take the student individually to test him/her. Additionally, if there is doubt when looking at a data from a test, a student can be given a different test by the psychologist as well.

Middle School Identification & DEPs

TAGAC also discussed middle school identification. Students can be identified in middle school, however we don't hear about it as much because it seems that many people think that open enrollment serves the students well. Although this seems to be the though, the identification process at the middle school level is detailed in the TAG Plan.

Parents did mention that they had received the DEPS in the mail with the most recent report card that was sent out. We are making progress, but we will continue to improve. There will be a forum for feedback. There have been more requests for identification information for middle school and science and social studies SAA at the elementary level. This may be linked to the DEPs going home.

Update from School Personnel:

Because TAGAC had two school board members, two Central Office staff members, and two teachers we decided to discuss what we should know about right now from their viewpoints.

TAGAC discussed that this is an important time and we need people to fill them out the surveys that were mentioned.

The School Board is very busy with the budget. It does not seem that there are any issues with the budget and TAG currently. However, we could use parents to advocate to City Council to approve our budget request. Without it there will be a gap in our facilities budget. The City Council provides information on their website about when the public hearings are with the budget. If you cannot make it there, you can also write a letter.

Dr. Mozingo shared that Read Across America begins March 2nd and we could use TAGAC members to volunteer to read. Please also feel free to share with other parents and community members.

Wrap Up:

SATs

Mrs. Griffin is going to get in touch with Clinton Page to get his take on Mr. Gordon's presentation. TAGAC is unsure if he felt that the SATs are a valid tool for measurement. It would be helpful to get it validated by the Department of Accountability.

If it is considered valid, TAGAC discussed including SAT data in our Annual Report. However, we will continue to modify the data so it makes sense and is appropriately comparable to other districts. We need to be careful at how we look at other districts and measure this data so that it is comparable when the variables may be very different.

STEM Academy

TAGAC also discussed The STEM Academy and how it is typically marketed for TAG. It was initially created as a place for students who didn't learn as well in a traditional classroom and would benefit from a specialized curriculum. Over the years, it seems that it has turned into something else. If it is going to be a place for TAG students, then maybe TAGAC should be working with them to make sure it is a quality program.

Dr. Mozingo responded that it wasn't originally designed for TAG students. She discussed some of the changes that have been made and discussed that it has all been updated in the Program of Studies so it is not marketed that way. Although the Program of Studies mentions all of these things, the conversation between families is that it is a great opportunity for TAG students.

Final Thoughts

TAGAC discussed that all information from our meetings including agendas, minutes, and handouts are posted on the website with school board information.

We also need to work on making information such as the KPIs more accessible to everyone. They were difficult to find for some TAGAC members.

Meeting is adjourned.