

GEAC Minutes  
April 8, 2009

Notes taken by Lisa Gilbert, co-secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Raj Paul, VP Elect, at LWSD Resource Center.

Present –Raj Paul, Mary Wictor, Gretchen Colonius, Jodi Gaertner, Pam McBain, Carolyn Benson, Lisa Gilbert, Amy Mikkelson, Dr. Cindy Lundvall, and Sandy Malone-Long. Four others were in attendance.

**Director's Report – by Dr. Cindy Lundvall**

“Accelerated Programs: LWSD” Cindy showed a presentation recently given to the School Board at one of their 6 study work sessions

- Full presentation will be posted on GEAC website
- Features of program:
  - Integrated thematic curriculum (LWSD curriculum framework), simulations
  - Multi-age roll ahead for differentiation and personalization
  - Constructivist
- Accelerated Program Numbers (2008-2009)
  - Full time 472
  - Enrichment Pull-Out 308
  - Jr High 133
  - Total 913
  - All waitlist students were offered program
  - 6th grade students – 56 went on to Jr. High Quest, 9 to Choice schools
  - AP enrollment approximately 3,157 student/classes; 2,510 tests
- Questions:
  - How to best place accelerated students that are new to the District?  
A: parents need to advocate.
  - Q: What measures does the Board use to determine the effectiveness of Quest? A: Tracking WASL, SAT, participation in AP. Board wants to serve these kids. Additional costs to run full time program are not that great – biggest is transportation. Testing and Administration costs come out of money given by State.
  - Q: How do you determine addition of an AP class? Does District try to keep schools similar? A: Number of sections depends on registration. Adding a whole new class is done by teacher or teacher and principal. Teachers need to have the right academic background. Schools offering on-line or honors (differentiated) need to have enough parent and student interest.
  - Q: Noted that nonwhite students are overenrolled in AP compared to District as a whole. A: This is due to Asians, but District is trying to up the other groups. Q: Why does ICS does not offer as many

AP classes? A: Because the school is smaller, you do not have as many choices.

## Budget

- Come to District Input Sessions (7 pm): attend and actually complete the process of giving input; best feedback is to say positive things about the program, what are children getting out of the program, impact on kids
  - April 14 - LWHS
  - April 15 - Redmond HS
  - April 16 - Eastlake HS
  - April 22 - Juanita HS
- Overview – state basic education dollars (per pupil). Federal stimulus dollars have reduced the deficit from \$10M to \$7.7M (out of about \$200M) for next two years, now reconciling House and Senate budgets.
- Loss of I-732 COLA for staff - \$3,000 loss to each teacher.
- Loss of I-728 (lowering class size primary level; safety net courses K-12; Title 1 dollars for low income low performing kids, professional development; ELL programs not covered by special education)
- 100 items on list, including athletics, EPO Quest (not including FT Quest or transportation), AP materials and teacher training
- \$365,000 EPO, estimate \$30-40,000 FT transportation; AP support \$180,000; What about fee for transportation EPO and FT?
- Stress importance of program with regard to special needs, including social, otherwise kids may fall out of system – perception is that Quest program is elitist; some districts handle by IEPs
- News releases are being posted on the District website
- Teacher contract – will notify of potential layoffs on April 13, based on state seniority
- Will Quest teachers, or those with special training, have priority for layoff? Quest teachers are on K-6 teaching contract same as others. Most at risk are non-continuing contracts.
- Creative solutions are welcome, such as volunteer staffing, grant funding, paying for transportation
- Message to GEAC members– come to input meetings and give input; check District website for source of news items; contact Cindy with questions
- Contact communications director, Katherine Reith regarding input opportunities, find out if form can be distributed to all GEAC

Raj – Action item to coordinate efforts on budget input especially for constructive suggestions

Outreach: no report

Enrichment: Mary Wictor - Grants completed \$8031; funded all approvable grants; agreed that teachers will return extra funds if greater than \$10 over per grant language

Parent Ed opportunity through Joanne Hall – should GEAC promote information session: applying to highly selective colleges? May 6 at 7 pm

Advocacy: Jodi Gaertner– relayed a thank you from Coalition

GEAC thoughts on budget input:

- Possible transportation cost contribution
- Concern regarding possible cut of new Quest teachers
- Continue funding professional development
- Non-teaching staff cuts first
- Look for pockets of waste
- Reduce consultants
- Eliminate purchasing of programs of low value
- Pay for Quest testing
- Cut copying costs by going on-line
- Look at textbook changes

Action item: Get email out to parents about the Budget input sessions

May Agenda – Nominations for next year.

Adjourn: 9:03