

GEAC Minutes  
January 6, 2010

Notes taken by Lisa Gilbert, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Debbie Napolitan, President, at LWSD Resource Center.

Present –Gretchen Colonius, Jodi Gaertner, Mary Wictor, Liesl Bohan, Amy Mikkelson, Debbie Napolitan, Lisa Gilbert, Pam McBain, DJ Evans, Carolyn Bensen, Dan Phelan. Eighteen others were in attendance.

**Director's Report – presented by Dan Phelan**

Elementary Quest Selection Process Update: 1,500 applied, 600 were screened out. There are 90 openings. Screening criteria were as follows:

- K reading screen (oral) – 450 applied and about 230 are moving forward
- Grades 1-5 report card screen. Mean scores must be at least 3.5 (both last year and fall, or just fall)
- Grades 4 and 5 also need a 4 on WASL

How are we doing in regular education compared to other districts greater than 10,000 in size?

- Reading – No. 1 in state
- Writing - No. 1-2 until 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and our SATs are high
- Math - No. 1-2
- Science - No. 2-3
- 82% go to college, and 60-70% graduate
- No lid on funding for buildings and technology
- Rank 265<sup>th</sup> out of 293 school districts in funding on curriculum

Dan is asking four questions of each teacher:

1. What do we want kids to learn? (standards)
2. How do they know what kids know?
3. What do you do when kids don't get it?
4. What if they already know it? (new question)

Governor's budget proposal cuts gifted education. State currently funds 2.4% for gifted education, and LWSD serves 6%, with pull-out Quest using all the state funds. LWSD budget will be cut by \$7.5 million, the same amount as last year, resulting in increasing class size, and decreasing services.

Question: Some teachers don't give 4's in the first grading period and therefore kids can't meet the Quest screening criteria.

Answer: Dan agrees that we need more objective criteria. A consultant has been hired to help the District make better use of scale scores.

Question: Why not let kids self select into Quest and see if they succeed?

Answer: Failure can lead to high rates of drop out, so the premise should be to do no significant harm.

Question: What is being done about standardizing curriculum in Quest?

Answer: Dan met with Quest teachers yesterday. They will bring work to the next meeting in 1-1/2 months with the goal of improving the level of quality, not standardization.

Question: What can we do to influence funding?

Answer: Attend upcoming Town Hall meetings with your legislators. 48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District meeting is tomorrow night January 7 at Kirkland City Hall, with Rodney Tom, Ross Hunter, Deb Eddy

Question: Isn't the Jr. High Quest screening process inequitable for pull-out Quest students who have to test whereas full-time Quest students get in automatically?

Answer: Dan will not change screening process this year, although he agrees it is not a good system.

Question: What is the status of the Cambridge Program at Juanita High?

Answer: Cambridge Program will open next fall for 9<sup>th</sup> grade only, then will add a grade each subsequent year. Juanita was chosen for this program to attract students that leave LWSD for the IB program at nearby Inglemoor. Teachers go through training and exams are scored in Cambridge. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> public Cambridge Program on the west coast. LWSD is also looking at elementary language immersion programs similar to those in Portland, and a federal grant is being pursued.

### **Enhancement - Gretchen Colonius/Mary Wictor/Amy Mikkelson**

- Letters went out right before the winter break to each teacher
- Application deadline is January 28
- Adjustments need to be made to last year's grants because \$8K were granted and \$450 came back. Want to reallocate \$200 to Burton.
- Motion approved to pay \$200 from available funds

### **December 2009 Minutes Approved**

#### **Fundraising – Liesl Bohan**

- Flyer went out by email at the end of December telling about GEAC in general; flyer was sent through Janette to teachers who were requested to forward it to parents
- Need a parent representative for each school to find out if the information is being received
- Next email will go out describing grant process. Only 15% of parents join (see pie chart), and goal is 100%.
- Another email will go out after the grant process is complete describing where the funds went

## **Announcements**

Jr. High Nights for incoming students (not specifically for Quest)

- Kamaikin - January 24 (parent and student)
- Redmond - Feb 23 (parent only)

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students including full-time Quest students must apply for Jr. High Quest on website by January 22.

Gifted Education Day is February 5 in Olympia

Adjourn: 9:23