

GEAC Minutes
October 14, 2009

Notes taken by Lisa Gilbert, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Debbie Napolitan, President, at LWSD Resource Center.

Present –Gretchen Colonius, Jodi Gaertner, Pam McBain, Amy Mikkelson, Joanne Hall, Debbie Napolitan, Lisa Gilbert, Paul Meehan, Sandy Malone-Long. Eight others were in attendance.

Director's Report – presented by Sandy Malone-Long

- Question – Is Middle School preferred over Jr. High Model? Answer – Sandy likes Middle School model because social and intellectual development are compatible
- Question – What action is being taken to address WASL Writing scores that were consistently low in one Thoreau class. Answer - Sandy will take a look at the data.
- Question – What is the proper channel for conveying feedback/praise/concern about individual Quest teachers. Answer - channel would be (1) teacher, (2) teacher +administration, (3) district office.
- Testing – first graders will be given a reading test for pre-screening. This is a different process than last year.
- Entrance criteria may change for next year. Space is a concern. Goal is to identify those kids who will have best fit with the program. May require 4's on the WASL and also look at discrete scale scores. Possibly may look at increasing the cutoff.
- Waitlisted kids will get placed first next year, even if criteria are changed.
- Jr. High criteria will be left the same
- Issue with program alignment between the two Jr. High programs. A few kids are currently having difficulty and a process of intervention is occurring
- Question – What progress has been made on AP class alignment between the high schools. Answer - the AP program is not growing and a few foreign languages were dropped this year
- Funding of teacher conferences. Dan Phelan will accept GEAC funding. Gretchen Colonius has proposed collecting funds from Thoreau parents to send all three Thoreau teachers to a gifted conference in Seattle in November. An alternative would be sending one Thoreau teacher and Kathy Hiles from Smith who has requested to attend. Teachers who attend have responsibility to share with other teachers. Decision will be made by Dan Phelan and principals.
- Guiding the Gifted Class – Class is ongoing with two parents in the adolescent class and 16 parents in the elementary class. The classes will continue meeting despite low numbers in the adolescent class.

- Question – Should kids train for the COGAT test? Answer - Definitely not.

Parent Education– Joanne Hall

Upcoming Programs

- October 29 – New to Quest or Transitioning to Quest 7:00 – 8:30
- November 5 –Introduction to Quest Night, presented by District

Possible Programs

- Looking at hosting Northwest Gifted Child Annual Symposium during a half day in February. They would take care of everything, we would just provide a space. The cost to attend would be less than \$100, must join NW Gifted. Approval will go through Dan Phelan.
- Nancy Robinson – UW Robinson Center

Enhancement: Gretchen Colonius

- Conferences – Two teachers asked to go to the upcoming conference, one from Smith and one from Thoreau. Both are getting National Board Certification. Registration cost is about \$200. District will provide the funds for substitute teachers. Dan Phelan will make the final decision.
- Grant letter will go out in December. Funding currently \$8K, hoping to increase to \$9K.
- We have \$6K in the bank

Outreach: Pam McBain

- GEAC website domain name expired on October 14, and it will take about one week to get back. We are currently operated under a temporary site

Other Business

- Marymoor Storage Unit currently holding Brainstuffers and old financial records is being provided free but we need to pay insurance costs. Action item: find another space in the District, such as District warehouse
- Mead EPO Night tomorrow: Vinaya Kulkarni to attend.

Adjourn: 8:00