

GEAC Minutes
September 9, 2009

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 –Mary Wictor, Gretchen Colonius, Jodi Gaertner, Pam McBain, Carolyn Benson, Amy Mikkelson, Joanne Hall, Debbie Napolitan, Mia Wall, Lisa Gilbert, Sandy Malone-Long, Janette Cimburek, and Dan Phelan. Four others were in attendance.

Director's Report –Dan Phelan

- Dan is the new Director of Accelerated Programs, replacing Cindy Lundvall; he is also Chief Academic Officer
- He met with Quest teachers for half day on August 22 to discuss curriculum; teachers are supportive of GEAC
- District focus for next couple years is “Challenge for all Children.” They want to learn lessons from the Quest program. Nancy Pfaff, former full-time Quest teacher and curriculum specialist, is returning to teach regular 6th grade class
- Huge goal for this year is 100 percent membership in GEAC
- Quest did not suffer budget cuts and was highly ranked in last year's survey
- 979 students currently in Quest and 182 on wait lists
- One 7th grade class added this year at Redmond Jr. High
- Uncertain whether Quest can continue expanding as in recent years; although gifted education was included in Basic Education last year, it is not required until funded; we need to work with legislature to add funding
- The AP program continues to expand; there are currently no plans to require students to take AP
- Progress report on Weighted Ranking study - summary and actions will be released within next few months
- LWSD is gathering data about Honors programs; goal is to have access to rigorous programs in all schools, while attempting to maintain existing unique strengths within individual schools
- Research shows that gifted are not held back in mixed groups if teaching is right
- Kids on wait list are scattered among schools; will remain on wait list until their testing expires (14-15 months), then must retest
- Oversight in updating bus routes for Sandburg has now been corrected
- Transportation questions should be directed to Janette via email. She will be out of country October 11 through 29

Parent Education Programs – Joanne Hall

- Sandy Malone-Long will teach her Guiding the Gifted Child classes at two levels
- Transition to Quest Forum planned for October:
 - A room is currently booked for 40-50, will try to find a larger venue with 250 seats
 - Sandy requested that parents email her directly to tell her about their experiences with transition to Quest
- Suggested forum topics for this year: Summer programs, AP Night

Treasurer's Report – Carolyn Benson

- Budget presented for 2009-2010
- Grant funding left at \$8K for now.
- GEAC doesn't contact employers about matching. Language to "contact your employer for matching" should be added to enrollment form
- PayPal account has been set up
- Quest teacher funding for conferences was cut; Decision made to include \$1K for this.
- Motion to approve budget as presented approved.
- Motion to approved teacher distribution approved.

Other Business

- Motion to approve minutes for May and June approved.
- Motion to approve resignation of Margaret Compton as Advocacy VP approved.
- Open positions: Co-VP of Advocacy (duties include contacting Coalition and promoting Gifted Day on Feb 5)
- Fundraising goal of \$20K; GEAC will be 20 years old this year.

Adjourn: 8:40