

TAGAC Meeting Notes for November 2, 2016

Attendees:

TAGAC Members: J. Grab, Jessica Colby, Johanna Colgrove, Mike Marsden, Natalie Hval, Eric Houghton, Meghan Whitaker, Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Scholle McFarland

Guests: Margaret Delacey (OATAG), Jane Chaddick, Megan Robertson

Announcements

- Eric Houghton (Beach) is a new TAGAC member

Questions:

- TAG department postcards notifying families that their students are eligible for TAG because of score on SBAC
 - Many people in online forums excited to get these, even if student was already identified
 - TAG Department told member that any student who score 95% or more on SBAC math or literacy subtest should receive one
 - Member who asked about this didn't get one for his child; concerned that there might be holes in the communications coverage
- Problems with SSA at Chapman
 - Families upset because advanced students who attempted, but didn't pass, SSA test weren't clustered this year and aren't receiving instruction at their rate and level
 - Chapman 4th grade teachers did go to Alameda to learn about its 4th grade Walk-to-Math program, but apparently nothing happening yet this year to meet rate and level
 - One student who did pass exam made to attend and do work for grade-level math anyway; told the school can't align the schedule for SSA math. Warned that parent would have to drive to 6th grade math.
 - What's the best way for TAGAC to advocate when policy not followed?
- Discussion of what measures can schools take to better meet rate and level while PPS gets supports together. (No itinerant teachers supporting SSA yet; not sure there will be money in next budget). What about clustering (like David Douglas has done for 5 years now)? Online supplements?

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ask TAG Department to report back on students who passed SSA and how different schools are accommodating them
- TAGAC members will contact Chapman parent directly

II. Committee Sessions

- **DATA COMMITTEE:** Mark is not here, but we are encouraged to review the data request. Brainstorm about questions data might answer; requests Data Committee could make:
 - Correlation between 2nd grade CogAT to 3rd grade SBAC?
 - Are the change in 2E identification between 3rd to 4th at ACCESS significantly different than the general population?
 - Would be useful to look at TAG enrollment by HS?

- Ratio neighborhood capture rate by TAG? Who is opting out and/or go to non-neighborhood schools? Is there a way to quantify families searching for TAG services at different schools?
- Are there variables we could use to show rate and level are being met if waitlisted?
- We need a new TAG parent survey
- We need to have a follow-up with students waitlisted at ACCESS to see how they are coping and what the district actually did to meet rate and level at their schools, if anything.

ACTION ITEM:

- Get this information to Data Committee

III. Old Business

- ACCESS growth recommendations (and Teaching & Learning Committee on October 18)
 - Tried to correct misconceptions and ask for aggressive growth to demonstrated need (550 students)
 - Ed options committee will come back in a month to give a report about other options for services (SUMMA, tiered highly capable cohort Seattle model)
 - Next Teaching & Learning Committee will be Tuesday, November 29, 3:30
 - Scholle contacted Melissa Niiya (Systems & Planning) and Antonio Lopez (Spoke for Educational Options Committee at Teaching & Learning Committee).
 - Neither sure who is currently “sponsoring” the committee, who is in charge now that Sarah Singer from Systems and Planning has left the district
 - DBRAC has scheduled work on East side boundaries for early spring
 - The ACCESS complaint continues - some complainants will be testifying next week’s board meeting.
 - The district has a responsibility to come up with a plan/strategy to to meet the rate and level of TAG students in all schools, regardless of ACCESS decisions

ACTION ITEMS:

- Reach out to Steve Buel and other School Board members to explain what 99% means. Still many misunderstandings there.
- Put together research about different TAG models and their costs for the Educational Options Committee. Get volunteers via email.

IV. New Business

TAG Budget Priorities

- Review last year’s recommendation and TAG department response
 - Asked for proctoring for universal testing by 2nd grade teachers (and got it!)
 - Itinerant math teachers - did not make it into the budget
 - Asked for 4-5 TOSAs - got 1
 - Uniform curriculum extensions - TAG department said it wasn’t a budget item and would happen.
 - Question - has it?
- Review of budget cycle
 - Work with TAG department now to influence what they ask for (Budget Committee)
 - Superintendent weighs in February
 - Budget adopted in May

So what do we want to see this year?:

- Continue to see “you will have to drive your kid to 6th grade math.”
 - Still want the itinerant math teacher to stop this unfunded policy?
- Question about budget per school

ACTION ITEMS:

- Follow up with TAG Department about curriculum extensions and what is happening with making them available to teachers
- Ask TAG Department to explain how school level TAG budgets are working at neighborhood schools next meeting

Possible budget items brainstorm:

- TAG Compliance officer
- Training for teachers (\$480K for additional TOSAs)
- Childcare for TAG parent meetings
- Scholarships to OTAG for 1 per cluster for Principals, Sped Staff, TAG administrators, School psychologist
- TAG curriculum materials
- Communications and translations (evaluation of the effectiveness of the TAG communication plan)
- Outside consultant evaluation of TAG (\$50K)
- TAG parent survey
- K-2
- Comparative analysis of other states and districts (also NAGC state of the state)
- Walk to read? Walk to math? Training for these methods?
- Ask for yearly metric \$/TAG student → commitment to get us up to state average.
- ESSA (NCLB replacement) has some TAG requirements → think about ways spending could be aligned
- Psychologist for the TAG department
- Training for school counselors/school psychs for 2E
- Some trigger that provides district-paid IQ testing for possible 2E
- Pre-K and Kinder screener.
- TAG department to build upon individual school successes→ symposium to share?
- Quarterly TAG Success profile for Teachers? Within the newsletter?
- TAG Certification requirements and/or fees → demand required for state schools to pick up

We need to be really clear about how when the district doesn't follow its own policy.

- Complaint procedure (individual TAGAC members are willing to help)
- TAGAC members match their testimony
- Ask for more transparency about complaint teachers.

ACTION ITEM:

- Budget committee to meet with Andrew in December

Last thoughts:

OATAG representative says that that group needs new board members. **Not sure if they can continue doing the yearly conference without more people being involved.**

Also OATAG looking for people to help with a TAG funding bill based on new successful Dylexia mandate (for details, see this link: <http://www.decodingdyslexiaor.org/legislation/>). This mandate requires that every school has a trained teacher; interesting structure that could make for more effective TAG mandate.