

TAGAC January 30, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Attending (members' names bolded):

Jessica Colby, **Megan Robertson**, **Deborah F**, Margaret DeLacy [OATAG], Andrew Johnson [PPS TAG director], Anh Nguyen-Johnson [ACCESS principal], **Eric Houghton**, **Natalie Hval**, **Meghan Whitaker**, Jane Chaddick, Eowyn Rieke

I. Call to Order & Preliminaries

- A. Call for additional agenda items.
- B. January 17 minutes adopted by email already.
- C. Announcements from Margaret D
 1. OATAG Young Student Award application window is open, on website. It is \$600 (not \$500).
 2. OATAG will have a fall conference, date/location TBD.
 3. Continued work on question of a TAG endorsement. Currently a vicious circle - if no demand, no offering. If no offering, no demand. Has an upcoming meeting with Portland State administration and resources from Arizona to discuss process. Process is lengthy and costly, requiring work with TSPC. Any institution considering this will want evidence that there is demand and there will be enrollment. The content of the potential coursework is unclear.
Q: where is this evidence best to come from? individual teachers? principals? districts? should try to leverage Julie Esparza-Brown?
A: best from everywhere.
 4. Confirms that school administrators can "prefer" TAG credentials in job posting/hiring. Margaret is in contact with a licensure specialist who suggests that unions might really support the development of a TAG endorsement and unions are the most effective way to get related info into the district contract.
 5. Passes around Division 22 guidance from the state of OR. (available [online](#).)

II. Old Business

- A. Update on draft ACCESS admissions process (Andrew J.)
 1. No updates to drafts shared last week.

III. New Business

- A. TAGAC feedback to draft ACCESS admissions process (Megan R.)
 1. Megan passes around list of questions and comments generated by TAGAC.
 2. Many wide-ranging and specific questions from group. Much philosophy.
 - a) Q: how can this draft process be better-oriented and made more robust within the various related school year events (SBAC results, CogAT7 results, parent/teacher conferences, individual TAG planning)? Implement more conversation points so parents aren't driving everything.
 - b) Group is concerned about unanticipated burden on TAG dept if consensus is not reached (appeal to be allowed to apply) and/or high possibility of an unbalanced applicant pool.
 - c) Q: what will happen if there simply aren't enough girl-identifying applicants to compose balanced classes? What outreach has been done/can be done to encourage principals/administrators to approach HU and female candidates in their schools? 30% return rate on 99%ile letters last year.
A: Andrew would like to see admissions interventions happening at ACCESS principal level. As we proceed, principal should have visibility.
 - d) Q: when process is established, will it be streamlined enough for TAG director to hand off admissions and focus on TAG services in general?
A: Andrew's role has evolved but his position supports ACCESS as part of TAG continuum and will continue to be actively engaged.
 - e) Suggestion: Develop list of current ACCESS families who can ambassador back to schools they were previously enrolled at, as questions from prospective families arise. Everyone likes this idea.

- f) Suggestion: ACCESS or TAG department should personally communicate with 2017-18 waitlisted families and those 99th%ile who were denied lottery to encourage re-application (formulate policy around any preferential status).
 - g) Suggestion: Offer spaces to students on waitlist right now. Allow them to defer to fall.
A: Anh N-J & Andrew agree to look into this.
 - h) Q: Is forecasting underway to determine open seats for fall?
A: Yes. (Anh)
3. Information from Andrew:
- a) Application window will open on the 7th. Unsure about closure because not all testing is complete.
 - b) Once testing is complete, expect 2 week turn-around for scoring. Shooting for 02/15/18.
 - c) Draft process was discussed with some principals (mainly supportive) but not with PAT.
 - d) There is sibling priority for admissions.
 - e) Idea behind team-based process is that all of these individuals are putting time in on the process but not communicating/coordinating. Hope is that this will be much simpler and more efficient.
 - f) 90% of TAG nominations are driven by parents (*editorial: how is this determined? it's not clear from the form, is it?*)
 - g) New usage of Google Sheets to manage student enrollment profile has made data points retrievable which were not previously (99th%ile, HU, etc.) (*editorial: this is what we call a shadow database and is a heavily discouraged practice in student information management or any other info mgmt.*)
 - h) Chief Academic Officer position may be filled soon.
4. Andrew: Appreciates where we are in this process and acknowledges district has lots of work in this area. Agrees to simplify ACCESS admissions for this year only, then step back and pause for consensus. Take the year to convene with TAG facilitators etc., deliver professional development and training at the school level. If we simplify for this year, best practice going forward (next year) is to take processes through the school. Best practices encourage discussion at school level but for this year will not require it. Anticipates increased accountability with new Superintendent and increased TAG dept authority in process in neighborhood schools.
5. Group agrees with idea to essentially “soft launch” the draft process, inviting families to follow team-based, consensus-driven application process as outlined, but allowing submission of applications independent of that. This softens burden on families unable to follow new process due to scheduling, language barriers, or lack of administrative availability/awareness.
6. Andrew suggests that TAGAC form a committee to work on issues surrounding ACCESS admission, specifically regarding alternative pathways for students showing potential to perform at 99th (2E, HU, ESL, etc.)

B. Discussion of equity direction for TAG department (Andrew J.) (continued)

- 1. tabled

IV. Committee Sessions: Equity Committee (Megan R/Meghan W)

- A. tabled.

Tabled:

- A. 10/11/2017 Recommendation to Board regarding next steps for regional services model. (Scholle)
- B. 11/1/2017 Discussion of ACCESS high school component (see handout) [move to committee]
- C. 01/30/2018 Discussion of equity direction for TAG department (Andrew J.) (continued)
- D. 01/30/2018 Committee Sessions: Equity Committee (Megan R/Meghan W)