

TAGAC September 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Attending (members' names bolded):

Jessica Colby, Scholle Sawyer-McFarland, Megan Robertson, Eric Houghton, Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Natalie Hval, Heidi Owen, Aurora Terry [PPS Sr Dir College & Career Readiness], Sarah Davis [PPS Sr Dir STEAM], Julia Brim-Edwards [PPS School Board member]

I. Call to Order & Preliminaries

- A. Approval of [previous meeting's minutes](#). Eric moves to approve. Natalie seconds. Minutes approved.
- B. Call for additional agenda items
 1. Development of a TAGAC website?
- C. Introductions (New TAG director Linda Smith unable to attend today)
- D. Announcements:
 1. [OATAG conference](#) October 20th at Clackamas Community College (Oregon City campus). Margaret has posters to share - post at your schools. Keynote speaker is incoming [NAGC](#) President [Dr. Jonathan Plucker](#).
 2. State Board is meeting:
1st important topic: instructional hours - PPS is asking for a waiver for alt ed, on-track seniors, those with complete credits, AP/IB, etc.
2nd: Div 22 compliance reporting changes. Testimony due by morning of Sept 20th. Text of proposed rule will be posted tomorrow.
 3. Hoping more money will be allocated to TAG at state level but nothing to report on that.

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

A. End of Year TAGAC report.

Nicole will review now to recall where we were at last spring. She would also like to consider how it was distributed - haphazard because we were unable to gain access to PPS leadership. Asking PPS staff to clarify how we interact and communicate our recommendations in a non-reactive, timely manner.

Scholle: bylaws specify a year-end report but we've only done it a few times in 5 years and we've only been able to present formally to the Board one time.

Nicole: I have asked - do we report to the Board? How do we best communicate and fulfill our purpose?

Julia: asks for clarification of the charter [[bylaws](#)]:

Megan & Scholle: "The Council shall review aspects of the Portland Public Schools' Talented and Gifted program, and make recommendations to the TAG Administrator, the Superintendent and the School Board, with respect to services for talented and gifted students in Portland Public Schools. A report of the Council's activities shall be provided to the TAG Administrator, the Superintendent, and the School Board in writing at least annually."

Nicole: do we need to revisit our bylaws? Give our report in the fall - more aspirational than descriptive?

Julia: As board chair last year - there was no master calendar (not even when Div 22 report due, for example). With Rosanne Powell, built a big spreadsheet to track requirements, including things committed by policy or charter. Board members fluctuate, but maybe it would be effective to work with Board Office Manager in the future.

Margaret: Div 22 still February for now but maybe not in the future.

Eric: We are a resource, not focused on influencing things and can provide institutional knowledge. We have background to share and are available as leadership changes, especially now. If we are looped into the evolution of the TAG plan, etc., then we can provide context.

Nicole: last fall's 8-site Pathways proposal would be the most recent example of disconnectedness between staff and advisory.

B. Specifics of the report that are working well and TAGAC expects these to continue:

1. Universal 2nd grade testing. Can be refined to be more effective.
2. Early Entry to Kinder

3. Whole Grade Acceleration
 4. Single Subject Acceleration in Math. Not sure this is in fact universally available. Needs work and is important.
 5. Compacted Math. CY1 and CY2 must be offered in all schools. A lot of work went into making sure that Title 1 and K-8s all have CY1 and CY2. TAGAC will request data about this year's offerings.
Dr. Terry suggests we send the data request prior to meeting with the TAG director (Linda Smith).
 6. Margaret brings up the issue of high school credit allocated for coursework completed early. Also points out that EEK (#2) has moved backwards (smaller window, cost burden of testing shifted to families).
- C. Confirm members' dedication to the major report topics.
1. TAG ID/services for ELL. Nicole still focused on this.
District is addressing ELL via DLI so for now they are conflated.
 2. TAG ID/services for 2E. Natalie. Jessica?
 3. Rate/level of instruction in elementary. Eric is focused on this. Natalie as well.
 4. Accelerated learning opportunities in middle/high schools. Jessica? Heidi in unofficial capacity.
 5. Predictable automatic TAG services. Scholle. Heidi in unofficial capacity.
 6. Megan suggests adding ACCESS as a committee (task force last year was helpful to limit TAGAC's focus from being consumed by ACCESS). Group agrees. Megan will work on this. Natalie as well.
 7. Develop a TAGAC website. Natalie, Eric, Megan, Jessica.
- D. Homework: think about how to get out of this room and get into the communities referenced in C. Put together a work plan to work to. What are the intersections with staff and board committee work?

III. Committee Sessions

IV. New Business

- A. Update on TAG department staffing changes, District TAG Plan status, TAG website and TAG 101 events
1. Dr. Terry: TAG facilitators on every campus have received updated presentation for TAG 101 nights. Sept 20th TAG facilitator meeting scheduled. ID recommendation forms have gone out to facilitators.
Nicole: I will ask for a list of dates of the schools' TAG nights.
Q: Can we see the updated presentation? A: Dr. Terry: No, because schools will have personalized.
Nicole & Scholle: For historical context, there has been no continuity from school to school. No consistency between principals; some follow district information and some do their own thing. Parents have no reliable source of information. The more the district can publish itself, the better.
Margaret: State Dept of Ed has a translated brochure that is available.
Eric: It would be great if the district asked the facilitators to send back the personalized presentations to get a baseline. What I've seen presented at a single school has varied dramatically depending on the facilitator themselves.
 2. Nicole: I will ask for information about the schools' TAG budgets. Schools don't currently know what resources they have. Historically \$500.
 3. TOSA changes. One TOSA position was cut. One TOSA left the district. So we are down one net TOSA and we will have three instead of four this year.
Dr. Terry: All budgets cut by 10% across the district, including TAG dept.
Margaret: Losing 1 TOSA is not 10%, however.
Julia: last spring, asked what the plan is for areas out of compliance. Answer has been - new hire will put together a plan (but there was no budget attached). Look at last March for board meeting documentation on this. There is a process of asking questions during back and forth prior to board adoption of budget - an inquiry cycle.
Nicole: we have had success in the past regarding budget asks when working in collaboration with staff, and this depends on staff transparency and openness to collaboration.
 4. Dr. Terry: TAG plan on website has been amended over the years and we will be updating. Passing around Program Design document for 2018/19.

Nicole: program updates over the past 3 years have not been filed with ODE so ... we'll collect feedback and provide it to Linda. This looks familiar; we've seen a lot of iterations.

Margaret: This plan should have been budgeted and be in place. Need buy-in from schools.

Nicole: If this is the official TAG plan, then TAGAC requests that staff file it with ODE.

Q: Is it ok if we share this? A: Dr. Terry: yes.

Scholle: This is missing the structural support for TAG supports in middle schools that we discussed, staff discussed. Implementation of flexible middle school academies (not restrictive like Beaverton).

Nicole: take-away - a lot of work was done with prior TAG director and staff. We don't want you to be blindsided by community feeling let down; we can provide history and vetting. The final chart on program design looks like a roll-out rather than a global launch.

Margaret: I would like to see an implementation calendar.

B. Role of TAGAC (and other Advisory Boards) and implications for TAGAC Work Plan

1. Nicole has asked Rita and now Julia as well to clarify.

Julia suggests a working meeting with some board and some staff to iron out some of this stuff and getting a work plan established. Then do a summary presentation to the board.

C. Recruitment of TAGAC members (down to 7)

1. Direct interested parties to Nicole.

D. Brief ACCESS update re: Admissions Cycle

1. Nicole: Challenges with enrollment. Part is admissions, part is program split/relocation itself. We have asked for data and cannot get it. Seems unreasonable to need to do a public records request.

How many students are on the waitlist?

How many students are in 3rd grade?

I will bring it up again to the TAG department. How else to approach?

Julia: Judy says, working with principal to fill certain grade levels and will have update after that.

However Julia recommends to TAGAC that we need direct data from staff.

Megan: there is no one leading the horse - what is the strategic plan for enrollment? Who is in charge?

Nicole: PR push is desperately needed - as well.

Eric: Now that we've got new leadership, we need to communicate a path forward and support from Board and staff. The need for ACCESS has not diminished.

Dr. Terry: How do we encourage opportunities for collaborative conversation? I can hear the energy on your side and I can also see how staff would prefer to say nothing rather than say something incorrect or unpopular or potentially end up a media story.

Nicole: We want to be collaborative instead of bringing issues to the public. To execute our role, we need to be heard and see action.

Scholle: This group wants to get stuff done for kids. We have no objective of being right. Previously TAG department has had difficulty getting information out and activating change in the schools because of being under-supported. We are trying to get support to staff in order to get services to kids.

Eric: There's a lot of fear on the parent side as well. We hope to mitigate everyone's fear.

Margaret: TAG department needs more staff and is currently understaffed for the work.

E. Committee work for the year

1. See above II.C.