

## TAGAC October 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

*Attending (members' names bolded):*

**Jessica Colby, Scholle Sawyer-McFarland, Megan Robertson, Deborah, Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Natalie Hval**, Linda Smith [PPS Director of TAG/IB], Aurora Terry [PPS Sr Dir College & Career Readiness], Julia Brim-Edwards [PPS School Board member], Scott Bailey [PPS School Board member], Brian Lawler, Tanya Awabdy, Marnie Faust, Jonathan Dubay, Heidi Owen

### I. Call to Order & Preliminaries

#### A. Introductions

#### B. Call for additional agenda items

1. Megan: Has drafted a survey to gather information from ACCESS-eligible families who didn't apply, didn't accept their spot, haven't returned in 2018-19. Unclear whether it would be better for it to be a TAGAC effort or an individual effort.
2. Megan: Also would like some other eyes on the 5-year historical ACCESS admissions data and some strategizing as to what to do with it.

#### C. 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. Div 22 compliance reporting changes. Will be on October state Board agenda.

### II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

#### A. Tag Department Update: (Linda Smith)

Introduction: arrived after 30 years in Houston ISD. Principal at schools with large TAG population and IB programs. Looking forward to working with TAGAC. Also responsible for IB.

Have FTE for business/operations analyst to replace Kristen J; not a lot of interest. Also have another FTE to replace Tessalie S - also looking for IB experience in this candidate.

In the midst of 2nd grade universal screening, administered by proctors & TOSAs. Decision to use screener cuts down on students' time away from instruction; decision was made prior to Linda's arrival.

Q: How will parents be notified? In past, have not received notification at all.

A: Parents will be notified through the schools via letter. Can also email.

Some TAGAC discussion of the history of moving from screener to full and back to screener and difficulties of communication home to families. TAG dept will be working on this closely with TAG coordinators.

Cautioning from TAGAC members about many pitfalls we've seen.

Request: In Title I schools compared to non-, please track the conversion rate of those scoring >75%ile, notified and nominated and identification?

Q: New TOSA will also support IB - so the allocation of that individual's time will be split. We used to have 4 TAG TOSAs and now we have 2.5.

Comment: We've discussed an opt-out approach instead of an opt-in approach (families would have option to decline further testing rather than request). *[edit.: it is not clear that opt-out approach would comply with state law which is generally interpreted to mean that parents must opt in or agree to identification.]*

Q: Update on TAG plan?

A: One of ODE's requirements is to train teachers on rate and level. We are operating off of the 2015 plan on PPS website. A new plan would have been submitted spring 2018 in order to be approved by ODE for adoption by August 2018. PPS has obtained an extension to complete PD on rate and level by January 1, 2019 (out of compliance for PD because it didn't happen by the beginning of school year). Will do a train-the-trainer model TOSAs.

Discussion: Providing training on rate and level does not meet all the areas of non-compliance. Some discussion of what the ODE extension signifies but it's not clear. The TAG director seems to indicate that

Division 22 compliance will be granted once the PD is complete.

Q: Please come back and give us an overview of the training. And what about all the other ways that PPS is out of compliance? The biggest being lack of daily rate and level instruction for students.

A: Have to do PD to get the teachers the tools to deliver the instruction.

Q: What is the horizon for the updated plan?

A: That is included in the extension to January 1st. Building off of TAG dept work from last year or two (refer to the document provided by Dr. Terry last month.)

Q: Not clear that it's possible to do this with even fewer resources. We fought a few years back to get additional TOSAs to make more efficiency possible.

A: Correction - all TOSAs will work on this, not just the TAG department TOSAs. There are 42. TAG dept will train them.

Q: Can Angela Allen at ODE help train all these TOSAs?

A: Sure, will reach out to her.

Q: Please loop us in as trainings and plans are developed.

A: Of course. Also stress to TAGAC that the TAG dept is receiving major support from Teaching and Learning.

Q: The 2015 plan was stronger than the document provided last month (esp the middle school academies). What is the approval process for the new plan? What resources are needed? How will its success be evaluated?

Q: When you say all the teachers will receive training, is that really all? And how and when?

A: Reach as many as we can during already-scheduled staff PD opportunities. Not sure we can get other time.

Comment: a measure of accountability can be achieved by communicating to parents what they will see in the classroom that shows the training is rolling out. [Scott]

Comment: Encourage TAG department to communicate directly to parents re: what's being done

#### B. Role of TAGAC (et al) and implications for TAGAC work plan.

Comment: Role of advisory groups was highlighted in Superintendent's review earlier this month.

Scott: checked in with OSBA to find out if there were any guidelines. (No.) Title I is mandated and possibly a general parent involvement committee at one point.

Division 22 for TAG says parent involvement is required. Possibly also ELL.

Julia: recommends identifying what we've been and where we want to be and having that discussion to solidify. Be forward-looking especially given so many new district staff.

Nicole: has requested a meeting to do so. How do we advise all 3 bodies detailed in the by-laws? (Rather than advising through staff only.)

Scott: Board should invite advisory groups to at least a yearly check-in.

Comment: In the past four years or so it's been very difficult to get in front of the Board, except by using public comment opportunities.

Julia: For example, a Board member is a liaison to Head Start, for example. TAGAC could ask for a liaison who would be up to date officially and could speak to TAGAC's concerns. Need to make it official.

#### C. Recruitment: tabled.

#### D. ACCESS update: Krista not in attendance. Tabled.

### III. Committee Sessions

A. ELL. See handout.

B. TAGAC website/presence. Handout.

C. [Project Read](#) looks like a good tool for rate/level instruction. Need to get into every K-2 and SpEd classroom and get training to all teachers (not currently happening). Sept 4 2018 board meeting [comments](#). Hoping to get an emissary here next time.

Julia has an update on Project Read and will share with Nicole.

#### IV. New Business

- A. Visioning. Scott and Terry agreed to make some comments in Stephanie S's absence.

Scott: moving toward a 90-person advisory group for the process, culled from different constituent groups. Inviting folks in the next few weeks. Group must reflect diversity of city/student body. Individual commitment is significant (3 instances of a day and a half?).

Q: Just recalling DBRAC's huge amount of work? How is this different?

A: Leadership and board are different and are going to get things done. The budget is there. [Scott]

A: Community needs to hold Board accountable and hold staff and Superintendent accountable. [Julia]

Q: What input/role would there be for TAGAC?

A: That should be part of a focus group. [Scott]

Q: How will all these pieces get incorporated into the larger vision & plan?

A: Incorporated into strategic plan. Need community to call out if things are not reflected. [Julia]

Q: Will we get feedback from this process? Public documentation?

A: Yes. Core team will work with consultants to make it clear that inputs are going into the hopper. [Scott]

Q: There are thousands of TAG students in this district. How do we ensure that they are represented as stakeholders and inputs to visioning process?

Comment: how will this dovetail with other statewide processes (budgeting, ESSA, common core, etc.)? Need to make this compatible so it doesn't get waylaid by state or federal requirements.

Q: How will TAGAC be involved in the strategic planning?

A: We'll see when we get there.

#### V. Visitor questions

- A. Wilson site plan is very out of date and mentions a survey that we can't locate. What is best practice for parent feedback at the site level?

Recommended to touch base with Margaret to see how the previous TAG survey could be leveraged.

#### VI. ACCESS admissions discussion.

- A. Update on ACCESS DEI meeting with ACCESS administration.

B. Discussion of lack of analysis and reflection on the part of staff over all the admissions process changes in the past 2 years. How can the coming year's process be improved with no reflection?

C. Sidebar: working with TAG coordinators to develop a list of parent emails for information-sharing [Linda]

D. Discussion of need for rehabilitation of ACCESS' reputation. ACCESS is still being blamed for a whole host of things over the last decade.

E. Who makes decisions about admissions to other alternative programs? Pioneer placements are not handled by Enrollment & Transfer, for example. **Why is there no longer a hardship transfer process for ACCESS?**

F. How can TAGAC help move the admissions situation along? And the rehabilitation? Last year's dip in applications was due to context - much less restrictive process.

**Who is responsible for reviewing and refining the application process?**

G. How does TAG testing calendar line up with Enrollment & Transfer calendar (lottery apps close March 8th, 2019)?