

May 08, 2019 meeting notes

Attendees (members' names bolded):

Linda Smith [PPS Director of TAG/IB], **Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Megan Robertson, Marnie Faust, Scholle McFarland, Jessica Colby, Deborah F, Eric Houghton, Tanya Awabdy, Jenny Staab, Amber Keller**

I. Call to Order

- A. Introductions
- B. Announcements
- C. Call for new TAGAC members
 - 1. TAGAC is especially seeking diverse members; contact Nicole (emailtagac@gmail.com) with interest. Bylaws are posted on pps.net (<https://bit.ly/2TTx3JX>).

II. New Business

- A. Approval of new members. Nicole nominates Tanya A. for approval as a new member. We have capacity for up to 18 members. Scholle seconds. Members vote, all in favor.
MEGAN will send application to Amber K and Jenny.
- B. Bylaw Change for Article IV, Section 3 (December 2014 version)
MEGAN to research possible changes since 2014 and to publish most current version. Discussion of whether we need to make further changes to the bylaws in order to protect the longevity of the Council. Discussion of whether we should include language to allow the TAG director to appoint a chair. Current text: "The officers shall have been Council members for at least one year before assuming office." Suggested text:
"The Chair shall have been a council member for at least one year before assuming office, unless no candidate meets that standard. The Vice-Chair shall be a member in good standing. In the case where the preceding standards cannot be met, the TAG district administrator shall appoint a Chair."
Nicole proposes, Eric seconds, all VOTE to approve.
- C. 2019-20 Officers Nominations and Elections
Nicole is stepping down as the Chair of TAGAC. Scholle and Tanya are willing to be nominated to leadership positions. Nicole nominates Scholle McFarland as Chair and Tanya Awabdy as Vice-Chair for 2019-20. The intention is for a Vice-Chair to serve as Chair the following year. Deborah seconds. Discussion. Floor open for other nominations. Tanya's background: 4th grader at ACCESS, family is finishing 4th year enrolled in district. She is also serving on the ACCESS PTA. In joining ACCESS, became more involved in overall TAG advocacy and is familiar with the situation in the district. Professional expertise in educational visual presentations; molecular biologist by training.
All VOTE in favor.
- D. 2018-19 End of Year Report
According to bylaws, TAGAC prepares an end of year report. Nicole proposes we structure around the articulated goals posted on PPS website: <https://www.pps.net/Page/1548>. Also include historical list of recent events or changes in the report for posterity.
Scholle: We discussed last fall moving to a fall presentation to the board instead of an end-of-year report. What are we thinking about that?
Nicole: The board was receptive to this idea. We would need to establish some goals for next year in order to prepare for that. Maybe target October. We will need to work with Linda to get a date and slot at a board meeting.
Linda: What is the purpose? Are we talking about the state of TAG or the goals of TAGAC? How does this dovetail with the TAG department's reporting out to the board?
Nicole/Scholle: This is a TAGAC update to the board. The staff sponsor supports or makes the ask directly. In the past, we've had trouble getting the staff support or action, so we've leveraged public comment periods which is far from ideal.

E. Outreach for summer and 2019-20

TAGAC staffed a successful table at most recent OMSI night. TAGAC would like to have a presence at all district-sponsored TAG events so that we can build a mailing list and do outreach, provide educational flyers, etc.

Scholle and Jessica staffed the table: materials included OATAG brochure, PPS TAG policies, contact sheet for updates on agenda & notes. People are not aware of TAGAC and were very interested to learn more.

Suggest establishing an outreach committee to identify and orchestrate opportunities and materials.

Eric: There was discussion about establishing a web presence and a committee did meet to scope it out.

Nicole: Is there still agreement that we want to establish a web presence?

Scholle: There is an issue with maintenance.

Eric: If we keep it simple - host the one-pagers and collect contact information to support outreach.

Q: Does the group agree that outreach and establishing a website the focus for next year?

A: Let's keep discussing this.

Nicole: There have been other websites that have fallen behind or lapsed. One thing that has changed this year is that our TAG administrator is holding regular events and is able to occasionally send out communications to support our work. Another is that we used to conduct a lot of outreach and advocacy on Facebook but those mega-groups have changed and receptivity to our purpose has dwindled.

Suggestion: List of TAG-centric activities. Advocacy best practices for parents. Links to SENG, Davidson, links to FB pages. Consider business cards.

Megan: Google Pages is quite easy to use as long as we are keeping it simple (and we should keep it simple). My feeling is we need to agree on purpose and not be re-creating other organization's content.

Nicole: we now have a TAGAC google email/account (emailtagac@gmail.com) and need to continue to shift communication and materials there.

SCHOLLE will turn the outreach table materials into a PDF so that people can print it off as needed.

Nicole: at the beginning of the year, we targeted reaching out to Title 1 schools, etc. and we tried to do so around the visioning process but did not make headway. Idea for next year is to have TAGAC-led bigger meetings at middle school or high school cluster level.

Q: Will there be a district-wide meeting for newly-ID'd TAG families, as there has been in the past?

A: This hasn't happened for ~4 years. Years ago, there was a presentation and then 3 smaller presentations that families cycled through. In effect, quite similar to the 3-event series that the TAG department put in place this year. Having a meeting to lay out timelines for services and lecture series would be useful.

Linda: There is a real need for education around the services and how to approach them and why.

F. List of questions from April 2019 meeting:

1. Single Subject Acceleration: testing still in progress but the majority are not scoring highly.
2. Whole Grade Acceleration: very few. Not many last fall either.
3. MAP: tabled.
4. Will there be a Synergy TAG module? (No, this is not a thing)
5. 504/IEP overlap with TAG IDs. (Linda talked with Jessica about this).
2017: 261 TAG with IEP. 2018: 333 (prior to ID cycle).
2017: 359 TAG with 504. 2018: 353 TAG with 504.
6. Yes, Special Ed and ELL staff did receive training. Teacher observations are at the school level by those administrators, not by the TAG department. Basic rate & level training was provided by facilitators to teachers at the school level. Additionally, PD at monthly facilitator meetings, offering differentiation implementation strategies and resources to take back to teachers. There is a barrier in terms of whether at each school, there is time to disseminate this training etc. during staff meetings. There is some evidence that materials and strategies are being disseminated. Principals historically have not received a year-long calendar and would often get blindsided by requests. Linda has now developed

a TAG PD calendar for the year. Linda/TAG department is revamping school TAG night. TAG department is also participating in new hire onboarding. Also offering training that teachers can register for - unclear if it is logged to meet required PD for teachers.

Comment: This is a significant increase in TAG PD compared to past years and should be prominently highlighted where possible.

7. Inclusion of TAG design in Scope and sequence development.

A: TAG and TOSAs are working on extension activities (Math, Science, Health, Reading).

Comment: These extension activities are also significant and should be highlighted. This will help regain trust and build rapport.

8. 4/5 blends pose opportunity for TAG support and/or cluster grouping.

A: Superintendent and cluster directors are working on developing supports for 4/5 blends.

9. TAG ID letters are going out in batches. Early entry process ends May 15.

10. ACCESS application numbers: new applicants 133, returning applicants 25 (total ~158). Applications have been vetted for completion, still waiting on the last 4 this week. Then in Enrollment and Transfer's hands for lottery.

III. Questions from guests

Q:

A:

IV. Meeting adjourned 8:25p