

TAGAC Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2015

If you would like to offer suggestions for future agendas, please contact the Chair, Scholle McFarland (email: scholle.tagac@gmail.com or 503-288-0210) or the PPS TAG Office (phone 503-916-3358).

20 Attendees: **Nicole Iroz-Elardo**; Andrew Johnson (PPS); **Mark Feldman**; **Scholle McFarland**; Megan Robertson; **Deborah F.**; **Mike Marsda**; Chris O'Neill; Amy Jo Woodruff; **Johanna Colgrove**; Kerry Duff; **Jane Chaddick**; Jenna Cooper Gross; Eric Houghton; Tanya Schaffer; Margaret DeLacy; Michael McGarry; Megan Whitaker; Tamberlee Tarver; Bethany Sethi (**TAGAC Members Bolded**)

Handouts

1. Sign-in sheet (Being passed around. Please read introduction and return to the Chair.)
2. Agenda
3. Draft minutes of previous meeting (June)
4. "Expanding the View of Giftedness," School Administrator Magazine, September 2015
5. "Facilitating the Understanding of Depth and Complexity" <http://tinyurl.com/oton9zn>

I. Call to Order and Preliminaries 6:30 (10 min)

1. Call for additional agenda items
 - 2nd grade screening
 - Index Cards of good and to improve
2. Approval of previous meetings' minutes.
 - Johanna moved, Mike second
3. Announcements:
 - Upcoming OTAG Conference "What Do TAG Students Really Need?" (October 10 at Floyd Light Middle School <http://www.oatag.org/event-1885465>) (Margaret DeLacy)
 - Call for members at large → Need at least 4
 - Call for members for this year's TAGAC committees (Differentiation Committee, Communications Committee, Equity Committee, Curriculum Committee)

- Johanna submits (Mark 2nd) - unanimous - for merging the differentiation and curriculum committee
- Note that anyone, not just members, can be on the committee
- Equity committee has some outstanding questions for Andrew
- Johanna says she will do equity meeting.

• Newsletter will be coming out soon.

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI) 6:40 (20 min)

1. (AI: Andrew) Check in about updated Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) process and testing for SSA this fall

- Andrew provided a handout of last school year for the 15-16 year.
- SSA window is currently open but will close by October 15th in order to support the process.
- Honored every single request that central office knew about in the spring. Campus/parents had to be involved.
- Andrew has been working very closely w/ Math department to update the process. Finished it in April 2015; then presented to TAG coordinators who had concerns about logistics, supporting kids, managing the testing - many of which need to be answered. The TAG facilitators have not had a lot of voice in the past and have some concerns.
- One of the more challenging aspects about SSA is that it is not supported universally throughout PPS. Questions about whether test is legitimate. (Although Andrew does wonder if the process is too rigorous.)
- Part of the battle is to operationalize it. One of the “lessons learned” is that we don’t have the capacity to operationalize it - this is a priority for the Andrew right now. Other priorities are to figure out how to get it universally supported (particularly central PPS and building admins) across the PPS. Another lesson has been messaging about what SSA is for: parents may not accurately identify the difference between being gifted in math and ready to jump the entire grade in a way that supports process-driven common core standards.
- Comment: look at when the test is given - kids may need more “warning” time
- Tests are very long (Elementary are 2 90 minute sessions plus conference/write-up time); question about sustainability. Need to think about screening, even by teachers, in order to both support the kid and keep the process sustainable.
- What’s next? Requests make sense and there are students who need acceleration. Space/time issue - Some kids are definitely ahead, but maybe not an entire year ahead and teachers are balancing this against non-TAG students needs.
- What can we learn something from how ACCESS does this in just one week? Can building admins pair with someone at ACCESS?
- What does the follow-up on the “No” kids? Ideally they are supposed to reconvene the conversation in the building and creating a support plan in place. Andrew and TAG TOSAs are following up which is very new. This is something PPS TAG is encouraging facilitators to do.

- Equity - what about the 70 schools not on the list? Concern this doesn't represent the real volume. Concerns that this is still a parent (not teacher or building) driven process meaning that high SES parents will ask and others will not. What if a low-SES school isn't differentiating enough to adequately prepare for a full SSA? Maybe there needs to be a 1-2 year plan/prep. Teachers are very key - and they have to see potential in kids which can be very challenging in low-SES schools.
- Is there a district-wide professional development for elementary, upper elementary, etc? Teachers do not seem to be prepared to identify, particularly under 2nd, if it isn't a stereotypical looking TAG student. (Tabled for later agenda item)
- Is this going to be documented and when can we expect that? Andrew has to talk with Chris Russo (Assistant Super) and Antonio Lopez (Operations/Principal). **ACTION: Invite Chris and Antonio to TAGAC; Equity issue - bring it to the board.**
- Healthy reminder that SSA is the end of a long trail of lack of services.

2. (AI: Deborah) Followup on additional Lake Oswego TAG department questions

- Skipped

III. Committee Sessions 7:00 (0 min)

none

IV. New Business 7:00 (45 min)

- Volunteers to explore Washington's gifted education programs, especially Seattle and Vancouver: see
 - www.k12.wa.us/highlycapable/
 - <http://save-seattleschools.blogspot.com/2014/09/goodbye-app-hello-highly-capable-cohort.html>
 - Any volunteers? **ACTION ITEM: Deborah, Mark and Andrew to coordinate**
- New TAG survey for 2015-2016 school year?
 - Board showed some interest in repeating this, plus new board.
 - Committee to look at questions?
 - Concern that Andrew isn't far enough in.
 - Andrew would prefer to wait another year to have change take effect.
 - Can we also have a version for teachers/admins? It might highlight the perception gap. Barbara Moore surveyed teachers and included the question "do you feel supported, have training"
 - How does this play with the pilot program? Can we do it now for the pilot and then next year for everyone? **ACTION: Nicole to follow up w/ Andrew about leveraging the pilot.**
- TAG office report on TAG Program Model for PPS 2015-2016 (Andrew)
 - Copy handed out.
 - First order of business next meeting.
 - Brief intro of the Scholars' Program, pilot

