

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC)

January 14, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attending Members: Terese Bushnell, Johanna Colgrove, Mark Feldman (Chair), D. Fleskes, Susan Lattimore (appointed), Callie Love (appointed), Mercedes Munoz, Diana Ortiz (appointed), Amy Rueda, Brenda Ray Scott, Miriam Zellnik (appointed)

Absent Members: Virginia La Forte (appointed)

Attending Guests: Nicole Iroz-Elardo, Michael McGarry

Attending PPS Staff: Roxanne Coleman, Kimberly Matier

I. Call to Order and Preliminaries

6:30

Just before the meeting began, various people indicated to the Chair that they had to leave early. So Mark tried to extemporaneously adapt the order of agenda items. This order is not reflected in the minutes, which instead match the order of the original agenda.¹

1. As time ran out, Mark suggested that we try to approve the November and December meeting minutes by email. There seemed to be consent. Everyone at the meeting received a copy of these draft minutes in their packet. The following happened after this meeting was adjourned, which resulted in both sets of meeting minutes being approved.

Mark requested approval by email using the following guidelines: “1. I will consider votes only from people who were members at the beginning of the Jan meeting, which is when the minutes would typically have been voted on. These people are on the TO: line. (All other members are on the CC: line.) 2. I will require a yes vote from a majority of all voting members since a quorum doesn't really make sense. No response will be treated as a no vote.” Of the 7 voting members, 4 “yes” email votes were received from Johanna, Deborah, Terese and Mark, so the minutes are approved. No other email votes or comments on this issue were received.

2. Changes to the Bylaws. Brenda asked if members could Skype in if they can't physically attend the meeting? There is nothing in the Bylaws or these changes that would prevent that. But it was unclear whether the equipment is available in the conference room for this. Proposed change #3 – Brenda suggested that amendments should be made available on the website also. Mark clarified that the proposed change just takes the responsibility for notification of changes to the Bylaws away from the TAG Administrator and puts it on whoever distributes the meeting minutes. Since the meeting minutes go on the website changes will be available with them and reflected in the updated Bylaws on the website. (The original proposal is available along with these minutes on the TAG Department website.) Motion to vote on the changes to by-laws as one unit, in one vote. Motion passed. Motion to approve the changes. Motion passed.

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

1. Kimberly and Mark jointly appointed new members: Diana Ortiz, Callie Love, Susan Lattimore, Virginia La Forte, and Miriam Zellnik. This brings the number of TAGAC members up to the Bylaws required 12 parents.
2. **AI: HS dropout percentages vs. non-graduation percentages:** As discussed at a previous meeting, the rate given by ODE data appears pretty low both for TAG students and for PPS as a whole. There had been a question about how to reconcile this with the low graduation rates that receive frequent media attention. Mark found that the dropout rate definition used by the ODE is only part of the the number of students defined in official statistics about graduation rates. Neither really provides us what we are probably interested in – how many TAG students leave PPS schools for a private school or homeschooling. It appears that ODE might be able to piece a statistic like that together, but this is not it. (A handout with more details about the definitions and these statistics is available along with these minutes on the TAG website.)
3. **AI: Cost of OMSI and SA classes:** Roxanne reported that the usual OMSI class is 1 session for 25 to 30 students and costs \$145 per hour. They can blend grade levels in some classes. The usual Saturday Academy class lasts about 90 minutes, goes for 7 to 8 sessions, has a maximum of 12 students and costs \$1625 per class. So a small part of a typical school TAG budget will buy an OMSI class. Saturday Academy does have some scholarship money available.

III. Committee Reports and Sessions

Although the TAGAC as a whole could vote to approve a recommendation from any source, Mark discussed his idea that committees are where the real work of the TAGAC must occur. Each committee should be researching and gathering parental input on their areas of concern. If they reach conclusions that they would like to recommend to PPS, they should

¹ **Note from the Chair:** I feel that this did not go well and didn't change much since the agenda order had already been adapted to requests I had received prior to the meeting. If you must both leave early and have an item on the agenda, please let me know at least 36 hours before the meeting. In the future, I will not be very receptive to requests made just before the meeting to change the order of the agenda. If there is anything I can do to help attendees be able to stay for the entire meeting, please let me know.

produce a brief report outlining the conclusions and present it to the full TAGAC. If the TAGAC votes in favor of it, that report will be included in the Chair's year-end report to the PPS School Board, the Superintendent, and the TAG Administrator. This is how the TAGAC can formally advocate for changes. We can then monitor how PPS responds and if necessary, can decide whether to advocate more strongly. I would like each member to participate on a committee that interests them. As it stands, we also need three committee heads. Committees are free to set their own goals, but as it stands now, a brief description of each committee can be found on <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/tag/9090.htm>

1. Communications: Brenda Ray would like to have some members/people join this committee. Gave information on the OATAG www.oatag.org : Young Scholars, the annual conference is Oct. 18 at Pacific U. in Forest Grove. Theme is STEM and Giftedness.
2. Differentiation Committee: Terese has been working on a Google Discussion Document on TAG terms to put on the website at some point. The Google doc is hard to format well, so she will be moving to another format. She would also like new people on this committee to help produce recommendations on parents' view of how to improve differentiation.
3. Equity Committee: No members at this point.
4. Curriculum Committee: No members at this point.
5. School TAG Budget Committee: No members at this point.

IV. Conversations with PPS

1. Kimberly explained that she is asking for more TAG specific FTE-including TOSA's and possibly Regional Coordinators; emphasis on implementation of PD for increasing rigor and relevance for all students (resources included in that). She will be introducing the Flexible Classroom Model towards that goal.
2. Part 1 of the Introduction to Rigor and Relevance training for teachers: Kimberly and Roxy not only shared part of a school/teacher PD but shared strategies and protocols that teachers use in classrooms to increase participation, engagement, and understanding of curriculum material.

V. New Business

There was no time for the TAG 101 discussion and it will put on the agenda next month.

VI. Questions and Comments from Guests

VII Adjourn

8:30

The meeting went past the scheduled adjournment time of 8:00.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday February 11, 2014 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

BESC (District admin. building) at 501 N. Dixon St, 97227 Mazama Room (second floor behind cafeteria)