

# Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC)

March 11, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

**Attending Members:** Terese Bushnell, Johanna Colgrove, Mark Feldman, D. Fleskes, Diana Ortiz, Brenda Ray Scott, Miriam Zellnik

**Absent Members:** Virginia LaForte, Susan Lattimore, Callie Love, Mercedes Munoz, Amy Rueda,

**Attending Guests:** Mike Marsden

**Attending PPS Staff:** Roxanne Coleman, Kimberly Matier

**Absent PPS Staff:** none

### I. Call to Order and Preliminaries

Several members were late so meeting started about 6:45. January meeting minutes approved with correction of misspelled OTAG to OATAG.

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

None this month.

### III. Conversations with PPS

1. Update on what schools are using their TAG budgets for this year. (Kimberly M. / Roxanne C.)  
Kimberly reported on TAG budgets: More schools closer to using all of their budgets this year than before. They are also being more careful about how they use their funds to meet the needs of TAG students. She will do a survey of principals about whether they use their money on Sat. Academy or not. Sat. Academy is really expensive. Only 16 out of 85 schools have not used their budget yet. The focus schools (schools that have not shown adequate student growth in achievement) and ACCESS are a part of those who have not used the funds yet. (**Action Item**) Kimberly will check on whether TAG students are a group that the state measures adequate growth. She talked about looking at different curriculums/companies for high achievers. Example would be Renzuli Learning.

### IV. Committee Sessions

1. Discussion about Curriculum Committee vs. Differentiation Committee. There has been some email suggestions that these committees should be combined, both because they are similar in purpose and because we have too few members to properly staff 5 committees.. Mark is sympathetic to this idea but wants to put this off until all members have started some committee work. For now, anyone interested in the Curriculum Committee should join the Differentiation Committee. They are on track to produce a report by the end of this year and then members can revisit the mission of that committee. The School TAG Budget Committee is also supposed to be ad-hoc, so might dissolve at the end of this year.
2. Committee Chairs and committee choices by each member. Diana accepted the position of Chair of the Equity Committee. Mirian and Mercedes have joined her. Johanna and Deborah-will join on the Differentiation Committee. Virginia is chairing the School TAG Budget committee and Deborah will be working on that also. Mark needs to contact other members to ask which committee they want to work on.
3. TAG Budget Committee Discussion (Virginia L. – 20 min) – No discussion.
4. Differentiation Committee Discussion (Terese B. – 25 min)  
The intent is to post these definitions on the website so parent may have better communication with teachers. There were several **Suggestions:** (1)-Add graphics and links to words for better understanding of terms.(2) Add the term “Quad-D” with a reference to Rigor and Relevance. (3) Add a graphic of the Rigor and Relevance matrix. (4) Maybe we should get these terms on the website now and then refine as we go.
5. Discussion about handout. TAGAC is considering making some recommendations that schools arrange their schedules so that all grade level math in schools is scheduled for the same time of the day so that movement between classrooms could be possible. It is being considered to strongly encourage principals to either align reading and math to support this or to do cluster grouping, or do both. Kimberly reminded that school decisions are not all centrally based, but schools can make their own decisions about many things. School schedules is one of those things that are definitely school based. There was discussion about some difficulties not mentioned: staffing, licensure, 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for student in a K-5 school. There was much discussion about students’ needs not being met in Math because they can’t go to the grade level that would be appropriate for them at their schools. It was pointed out that we should never say we can’t do something like Walk to Math because of “logistics” in the schools. The members feel that the district and schools should be able to figure out how to do this. Kimberly explained that we do have a Single Subject Acceleration process in place for those students who do need to go up a grade level in math. But often, kids trying this actually are doing harm because they end up with holes in their learning progression. PPS needs to refine SSA qualification testing to assess correctly. They need a way to address the crowd of parents who will request acceleration. Kimberly also reminded us that Walk to Math is no longer approved as a term/structure to meet rate and level. It does not meet the needs of the

conceptual understanding. The new common core takes students through more than just computational skills. Students need to be able to apply their understanding to new situations. Some TAGAC members think that Kimberly is not describing what we thought of as Walk To Math. There may be some confusion here. **(Action Item)** Kimberly will talk to our math department to get a better term and explanation for this than the term Walk to Math.

#### V. New Business

7:50

##### 1. TAG 101 – scheduled for May 21, 2014

Kimberly discussed the possibility that we feature TAGAC and the work they're doing so that we can gain support and membership. Much discussion, but in the end, the committee sees value in breakouts and other information also. -Brenda Ray would like to see a breakout for Social/emotional needs. She can find a speaker for Social Emotional needs. Diana described Beaverton's parent meetings: There were 3 during the year, on topics like Social/Emotional issues, student friendly topics, etc. After finding out that TAG 101 was scheduled only for 1 hour, opinions were that we would like to have the full session in the Auditorium. Johanna suggested that at the TAG 101 meeting we tell parents about possible future TAG meetings that would deal with different TAG topics next year, for parents and students. Mark suggests that schools go back to Cluster meetings for the Fall Parent meetings and have a TAG topic presentation before the schools break out into individual schools. Or combine PTA and superintendent in this night as well? Someone suggested that at we advertise at the TAG 101 meeting about coming to the June meeting to tell them about the committees and the work they are doing. Committees could then present their recommendations.

##### 2. Final Decision: Nuts and bolts, 5 minute TAGAC presentation, Social/Emotional presentation (speaker arranged by Brenda) with Q & A at the end. District provides cookies, coffee and water.

#### VI. Questions and Comments from Guests

None

#### VII Adjourn

8:25

Most members were able to stay and meeting ended late.

#### NEXT MEETING

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

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