

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC)

May 27, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent Members: Virginia La Forte, Mercedes Munoz, Susan Lattimore, Amy Rueda,

Attending Guests: Nicole Iroz-Elardo

Attending PPS Staff: Roxanne Coleman, Kimberly Matier

Absent PPS Staff: none

I. Call to Order and Preliminaries

6:30 (10 min)

Minutes of April and May 13 meetings were approved by consent.

Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will happen at next month's meeting. Mark mentioned that technically, the Bylaws say that you must be a member for a year before running for an office. But since many members were appointed late in the year, he recommends that we have and accept a motion that any current member may run for an office.

Applications for membership are also being accepted. There are several open positions and we will probably at least a few, especially if we can get applicants from parents of High School students or from other demographic groups that are under-represented. There will be an application on the website.

III. Conversations with PPS

6:40 (35 min)

Karl Logan, PPS Regional Administrator for ACCESS Academy was scheduled to come speak with us but he did not show up. Both Kimberly and Mark had heard that he would be there but neither had heard from him.

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

7:15 (40 min)

There was discussion on "Proposal: A Recommended Framework for Improved TAG Services in PPS"

Kimberly: There needs to be a focus on many assessments throughout the year so that teachers know, at different points in the year, where their students' skills really are. The district is working on computerized assessment tools that would be common throughout all PPS schools that measure the progress and growth of all students. Those assessments are projected for implementation next fall. (The State is giving PPS a one time sum of money to help choose those assessments.) This should help provide data for acceleration when necessary. We can look at school wide, as well as district data. (Looking at Performance Series and portfolio: work samples and rubrics.) There was a question of turnover time for these assessments, but Kimberly wasn't sure of that.

- She also explained the district plans to focus on schools that need more PD throughout the year. (CCSS implementation modules)
- PPS will focus on 5 types of learning targets for students: Knowledge, Skill, Reasoning, Product, and Disposition (perseverance, engagement, mathematical practices, etc.)
- The parents would like to see the district support their recommendations. It looks like the TAGAC is definitely in line with what may be happening with these new assessments. The details of what to do with that data will need to be worked out. (i.e. moving to another grade level for math or reading from the assessment data)

Measure 2: No discussion (Roxy pointed out that if she or Kimberly didn't add to the discussion, that didn't necessarily mean that they endorsed the measures.)

Measure 3: Discussion about how the Immersion schools fit into the question of meeting the needs of TAG students in the immersion language, specifically walk to math. Kimberly will try to ask one of the immersion TOSAs come to talk to the group. Kimberly told the group about our CCSS PD modules: Effective Implementation of Common Core. Flexible Grouping is one of these modules. That could be in or between classrooms.

Measure 4: E. Kimberly explained that there will be more TAG TOSAs to help support teachers, students, and schools. So if there are concerns at individual schools, we will be more able to provide support such as coaching, PD, monitoring TAG plans and implementation of those plans. Suggestions to move E up before C or make it a separate paragraph. Brenda Ray will work on that, so Mark will need to send her the document. Question: Could Kimberly follow up with Mark about the staffing/TAG resources for next year.

Measure 5: Suggestion to change the title and to rework the beginning paragraph to be worded in more understandable terms.

- Question: Is ACCESS really an alternative school? Kimberly explained that it was developed to meet the needs of students with a particular set of needs. That might include things like heightened excitabilities, asynchronis

development, twice exceptionality, behavior problems, etc.

- Discussion on whether siblings should be a part of the acceptance criteria.
- There is a request to remove Measure 5 from these recommendations. Terese asks that more discussion be a part of this recommendation, with more original stakeholders involved in the discussion. Also, she points out that Summa can't be compared with ACCESS because it is spread out over many campuses and only includes 3 grade levels (6-8). Maybe that shouldn't be mentioned in the measure.
- Discussion that we don't throw out all of measure 5, but maybe not include B. So possibly include this measure to make a strong statement that TAGAC supports ACCESS and to consider growing it for more students. (Possibly another ACCESS school.)
- Suggestion to research the impact of changing the criteria before including the wording in B. (Mark has the wording.) Research should include stakeholders: parents (including those parents who are wait-listed), staff, TAGAC, ACCESS administration to gage the impact on constituents.

Motion by Johanna seconded by D. Fleskes "Change the wording of Measure 5 Item C to 'Research the impacts for a change in admission criteria such that the only qualification for admission is a 99th percentile TAG identification test score; engage TAGAC members, ACCESS staff and administration, parents of current and waitlisted ACCESS students, and district administration.' and to accept the entire proposal. Vote was unanimous in favor.¹

IV. Committee Sessions

None this month.

V. New Business

None this month.

VI. Questions and Comments from Guests

7:55 (5 min or as time permits)

VII Adjourn

8:00

NEXT MEETING

2014-15 Meeting Dates are TBD but will likely be held on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. BESC (District admin. building) at 501 N. Dixon St, 97227 Mazama Room (second floor behind cafeteria)

¹ The text actually in the proposal was later slightly modified for grammar. This motion actually accepted the full proposal, although the discussion leading to the motion did not mention that. There have been a small number of modifications since this meeting, including the addition of "parents of PPS students potentially qualifying for ACCESS" to Measure 5 Item B. The Chair expects to have a vote on acceptance at the June meeting. But should a quorum not be present or the vote fail, then the previous version would still have been accepted.