

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC)

Sept 16, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes – draft 1

Attending Members: Johanna Colgrove, Mark Feldman, D. Fleskes

Absent Members: Terese Bushnell, Virginia La Forte (resigned – see Minutes), Susan Lattimore, Callie Love, Mercedes Munoz, Diana Ortiz, Amy Rueda, Brenda Ray Scott, Miriam Zellnik

Attending Guests: Margaret DeLacy , Mike Marsden, Scholle McFarland , <to fill in>

Attending PPS Staff: Erika Gillis, Cathy Daley, Kathy Gaitán, Matthew Marchyok, Tessalie Schulte

I. Call to Order and Preliminaries

6:30

After brief introductions, there were not enough members present, so meeting minutes could not be voted on. Mark announced Virginia LaForte's resignation due to her PPS student is now attending a private school. The dates of TAGAC meetings in 2014 are listed on the TAG Dept website and in the Agenda. The May meeting is tentative, depending on when the TAG 101 meeting is scheduled.

Margaret DeLacy announced the 2014 OATAG conference "Every Child Counts: STEM and Gifted Students," on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Pacific University in Forest Grove. This year's speaker is Dr. Susan Assouline, Director of the Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa and a co-author of the Iowa Acceleration Scale. There will be a program for students on preparing for college and a tour of Pacific University.

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

Kimberly is no longer here so we need to clarify if there is still confusion on what Walk to Math means after discussion with Erika. Mark still needs to look into whether it is possible to phone into meetings.

III. Conversations with PPS

Erika Gillis, Senior Director Office of Teaching Innovation and the new TAG Department Administrator and each of the four new TOSA's gave an extended self-introduction. Erika gave a presentation which is available in the TAGAC section of the TAG Department website and fielded questions.

- Q: What is the status of the beginning of year formative assessments that we were told last year would be administered to all students several times during theyear? TAGAC members likes these because they would help teachers better know each students level in math and reading which would enable them to put each student in the right level class, as requested in the TAGAC Recommendations. PPS staff wondered if the was the MAPS, which had been used by a few schools in the past, but not rolled out generally. It may be used as part of TAG Dept evaluations for Early Entry or Subject Acceleration. Members thought that Kimberly had said she was planning something different to start this year. Erika was not aware of anything else. Erika requested Mark to forward any emails or other documents about this. Mark is not sure there are any, but will check. **(AI – Mark)**
- TAG Dept is doing evaluations for early entry and subject acceleration until Oct 15. Tessa lie said there have been about 30 applications. She was asked how many were subject acceleration and did not want to give us inaccurate information so would have to check to be sure. **(AI – Tessalie)** TAG Department has a lot more resources to improve the website now. Kathy is doing most of that work but Matthew is also working on an external website area with more informal information for parents. It will be linked to from the PPS website.
- TAG Dept will be working on communications with parents. Margaret said there used to be a High School newsletter giving resources for HS students. There was further discussion about creating a TAG newsletter to send by both email and backpack. Members noted that parents at schools often want to get together with other TAG parents at the same school but that is very difficult. They requested that PPS makes it possible to send emails to TAG parents at individual schools. We have been told by TAG Coordinators and others that it was not possible to create a list of email addresses for TAG parents at a particular school. If that was possible, at least the TAG Coordinator could send all TAG parents an email asking them to contact a certain parent at the school who wanted to meet other TAG parets. Mark thought that making it possible to get email addresses of all TAG parents at a particular school if the single most important thing PPS could do to improve communication.
- There was discussion about school TAG budgets. <<?? Anyone remember what was said?>>
- Erika and all TOSAs have read our Recommendations. Erika proposed creating a subcommittee for each one and investigating further. Mark suggested that the 4 person team who drafted the Recommendations meet with her for further discussion. **(AI – Mark and Erika – arrange meeting.)**

IV. Committee Sessions

none

V. New Business

Erika's presentation and Q&A lasted until 8:00 so all New Business will be continued at the next meeting.

VI. Questions and Comments from Guests

VII Adjourn

8:00

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday <DATE>, 2014 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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