

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council
April 9, 2013 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT VERSION

Attendance: Cathy Biber, Terese Bushnell, Amy Doan, Mark Feldman, Tania Giger, Michael Kubler, Glynis (Glee) Lumb, Amir Nathoo, James Ollerich, Daphne Plaut, Brenda Ray Scott, and Jon & Ruth Zingesser

Staff: Roxanne Coleman and Kimberly Matier

- I. **Called to Order:** 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Introductions / Announcements:** Each individual in attendance, with a few exceptions, shared the name of their favorite book and why.
- III. **Advocacy, Media, and Other News**
- IV. **Minutes (3/12/13 Meeting)**
The minutes were reviewed with discussion to add one or two sentences about the survey results to clarify the discussion.
- V. **TAG 101 Meeting**
Dr. Kimberly Matier described her plans for creating a more interactive TAG 101 meeting than has been seen in years past. She will work with Roxy and Brenda to finalize details of the meeting.
- VI. **Discussion Questions for Kimberly**
Mark Feldman lead the discussion for this agenda item in which Dr. Matier was invited to respond to a series of questions, detailed in a separate document, about various components of TAG. These minutes offer highlights of her responses to those questions:

Dr. Matier said that the priorities of her position as administrator of the TAG Dept line up very well with the TAGAC priorities. She could not describe any goals that the district was asking her to accomplish that were different from TAGAC priorities.

TAG series are delivered during the core instructional day and we (PPS) are constantly working to increase rigor and challenge for students.

There will still be a TAG Coordinator role with the focus being more instructional. School secretaries will be trained to manage the TAG paperwork related to the identification process.

Dr. Matier spoke to the plan to replicate the success of the model across the entire system. Members noted that the TAG survey suggested that ACCESS was the only school in PPS showing success with TAG services and so that overall the model seemed to be not successful. She said that she meant she wanted to replicate the success that is happening for “some” kids with “some” teachers. Members noted that this seemed to indicate that wide changes to the model seem necessary since successes are only occurring at the individual teacher level rather than across the whole model.

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council
April 9, 2013 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT VERSION

Dr. Matier also spoke to seeing parents as academic partners. She described the move to having the TAG Plan integrated with the Building Plan.

There was discussion about working with differentiation, ability grouping, and “pull out” sessions. Dr. Matier spoke to her belief that TAG work should be integrated into the school day and that she wasn’t opposed to “pull outs.”

The 2005 Findings Document prepared by Daphne Plaut, who was at the meeting, was originally presented to two board members. She commented that it seemed not lot had changed in the intervening time. Dr. Matier discussed the Leadership Academy meeting as the only forum available to do Professional Development with principals. Unless the principal is also serving as the TAG coordinator, there has been no other forum for them to get PD on TAG services. Members noted that we therefore need such a forum.

How does the ACCESS Academy fit into district TAG Services? The group engaged in a lengthy discussion of the status of ACCESS.

Dr. Matier said that she believes that there are a lot of kids that need ACCESS to meet their needs, but she also believes that it is not as many parents as those who apply each year. The design of ACCESS is intended to be for the top 1% who have particular needs that are not being met. Kids who are very engaged, moving independently beyond level with teachers who cannot keep up. Especially if there are multiple ways and areas. There is not necessarily assynchrnaity, not necessarily twice-exceptional, not necessarily just acceleration for 99% kids. She expressed concern about parents of children who might need ACCESS who were not looking at it, e.g. for children in Kindergarten.

There was a brief discussion about TAG student dropout rates. Roxanne suggested that a large proportion of PPS dropouts are TAG students. She didn’t have exact numbers but might be able to get them if we wanted them.

Action:

Dr. Matier will bring _____ studies to the next TAGAC meeting.

Dr. Matier will talk with Chief Academic Officer Sue Ann Higgins about the concerns raised in the meeting related specifically to ACCESS.

There was a short discussion types of grouping. Dr. Matier said that flexible grouping systems are better than just saying we will separate out students in a building. There are ways to cluster in a classroom. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting so we could move on to other agenda items.

There was discussion about how TAG 101 would have breakout sessions. Brenda will run a TAGAC breakout session. Members suggested that it is important to tell parents what to expect as differentiation, how to know if it was actually happening and how to

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council
April 9, 2013 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT VERSION

identify whether a child's needs are actually being met. There will be a demo of differentiated teaching in one of the breakout sessions.

There was discussion about whether we should be presenting to the school board. Many members felt it was a good idea to at least present survey results and give the board an overview of our work. A dissenting idea was that since we are PPS Advisory group, we should first try to work within the PPS before we go to the board. Dr. Matier expressed interest in making a presentation to the board with TAGAC presence and said that she would investigate the possibility.

VII. Work Plan Template

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next TAG Advisory Council meeting.

VIII. Charter

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next TAG Advisory Council meeting.

IX. TAG 101 Meeting

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next TAG Advisory Council meeting.

X. Bylaws

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next TAG Advisory Council meeting.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location:

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