

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
Educating our students to reach their full potential

Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) Minutes

February 23, 2016

Approved

Present: Rylee Smith, Dr. Tara Hedlund, Rachel Utter, Jen Garnsworthy, Steve Troen, Pam McDonald, Janet Rohlf, Miles Haugen, Brian Trussel, Cathy Kindem, Heidi Hegenbarth, Jason Elias, Art Coulson, Pete Roback, Tiffany Kienitz

- The council was welcomed by Pam McDonald, K-8 Gifted and Talented /Young Scholars Lead Teacher. The December minutes were approved with grammatical changes. The minutes will now be posted on the district website. The K-8 Updates were reviewed. Pam reviewed the agenda.
- Steve Troen gave a summary regarding the Achievement and Integration Budget Adjustments (a handout with specific explanations was disseminated) and then explained the Redesign effort that is happening in tandem with the adjustments. The overall Achievement and Integration budget adjustment impact to GT and YS services resulted in some elementary schools not having 1.0 FTEs as GTYS specialists for the 2016-17 school year (see handout). Changes to FTE allocation was dependent upon the total enrollment of the school. With the FTE changes, a GT/YS Redesign team will begin to look at best ways to meet the needs of GT and YS students K-5. Members shared the following thoughts:

- One member spoke about regarding GTYS specialists as district level employees as to help with how they are budgeted to the schools.
- One member suggested membership on the redesign committee include a parent. *Steve stated that GTAC would serve in that capacity and would see regular communication with the redesign team.*
- One member suggested the redesign team include someone at the state or university level who might add impartial information on GT best practice and respond to the new federal and state mandates regarding gifted learners. *Steve took note of this comment.*
- One member asked that identification process of students be one of the focus' of the redesign team. *Steve stated that this was likely.*

Pam and Steve told the group to continue to check the COLLAB sharing site as to updates of the Redesign committee. **(Please note that the first meeting is scheduled for March 16th)**

- Due to the lengthy discussion of the budget adjustments and the Redesign committee, there was limited time to discuss the reading assigned in December. Pam mentioned

that she had reached out to Brian Trussel before deciding on the reading; wanting his background knowledge in gifted education to help guide the selection of the reading. Brian shared his background with the book, **Beyond Gifted Education**. Several members shared that this reading challenged some of their current thoughts about gifted learners and gifted programming. i.e. *Advanced academics versus identifying some students as gifted or not*. To actually learn more about the author's point of view, more of the book would need to be read. Might this be a possibility for the future?

- Pam stated the GTAC survey was now closed. The survey saw strong interest with over 800 responses logged on the online system. Pam passed out some preliminary statistics regarding the survey. At the April meeting the council will go through results and the 30 pages of comments in more detail. This information will also be used as part of the Redesign committee information as parent feedback to current gifted services and communication.

Final Meeting (not including possible future meetings as part of the Redesign committee):

April 19