

## Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) Minutes

April 19, 2016

### APPROVED

Present: Brian Trussel, Miles Haugen, Pam McDonald, Heidi Hegenbarth (virtually), Rylee Smith, Steve Troen, Pete Roback, Jason Elias, Tiffany Kienitz

- The council was welcomed by Pam McDonald, K-8 Gifted and Talented /Young Scholars Lead Teacher. The February minutes were approved with grammatical changes. The minutes will now be posted on the district website. Additionally, the minutes will be on the GTAC Sharing Site on Googledocs. The elementary and middle school updates were also reviewed. Members asked to have a report on how many scholarships were actually given for Nature's Engineers camp this June. Pam will see that this information is reported at the fall meeting.
- Steve gave an update of the blended advanced online social studies classes for grades 7 and 8 beginning with the short history of why the advanced classes were initially started. Due to the new one-to-one device initiative that will begin in the fall for the current 6th and 7th graders and the theories of the instruction that will guide us as the district moves forward with the literacy collaborative at the middle level, the 7th grade American Studies class will not be offered next year. The district is looking to strengthen instruction in ALL social studies offerings at the middle level with workshops being held this summer. The 8th grade global studies offering WILL move forward with Brian Martin at Valley Middle School of STEM as the instructor in an effort to the complete the online experience that the current 7th graders are accustomed to. Current 7th grade advanced American Studies online students will receive a letter from Pam asking them if they will be continuing with the online offering and informing them that Brian Martin will be the instructor. (Letter sent May 5)
- Pam and Steve reviewed the K-5 Redesign meeting minutes. (See meeting minutes in COLLAB folder.) Currently two meetings have been held. Shared knowledge about gifted education and gifted learners and the development of group norms took up most of the time during the first meetings. Information will continued to be shared in the GTAC COLLAB folder as the group continues to meet. There may be a non-mandatory summer meeting invitation sent to GTAC members to give an update of committee's work and to ask for further input.
- GTAC membership openings for 2016-17 were announced. There will be an opening for a high school student, Young Scholar parent representative, secondary parent representative, an elementary classroom teacher and an elementary GT teacher, a middle school classroom teacher and a middle school GT coordinator, as well as a high school classroom teacher. The parent openings will be posted in the local paper by Tony

Taschner. Pam will work with the high school principals for a student rep..... most likely from RHS at this time. All other staff representatives will be sought by Pam. If anyone had suggestions of possible staff appointments, please contact Pam, ASAP.

- Pam thanked and presented certificates and small gifts to those members whose terms were completed with this meeting. Members whose terms were completed included: Rishabh Gupta, Sofia Troutman, Diane Johnson (unable to complete term), Jason Elias, Jen Engel, Tiffany Kienitz, Janet Rohlf, and Brian Trussel.
- The GTAC survey continued to be analyzed. Council members were assigned schools to summarize trends found as part of the parent comments. Electronics Communications Specialist Quinn Kolb organized all survey comments, by school, in a document saved in the COLLAB folder. These trend summaries will be sent to each school and will be valuable information to the K-5 ReDesign committee. Pam will draft a thank you letter to the GTYS parents K-8 and let them know that the data is currently being analyzed. This data will be used to affect future programming and communication efforts of K-8 GT and classroom teachers beginning in the 2016-17 school year. This letter will also be a part of the GT webpage on the district website. GTYS teachers and coordinators K-8 will also be given a copy of the letter to share with their parents via whatever means best suits their needs.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

**Future Meetings:**

**September 20, 2016**

**November 15, 2016**

**February 3, 2017**

**April 11, 2017**