

## Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (GTAC) Minutes

September 15, 2015

Present: Brian Trussel, Miles Haugen, Cathy Kindem, Pam McDonald, Heidi Hegenbarth, Rylee Smith, Rachel Utter, Steve Troen, Pete Roback special guest: Kevin Samsel

- The council was welcomed by Pam McDonald, K-8 Gifted and Talented /Young Scholars Lead Teacher. The April minutes were approved with two 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 were reminded to review the elementary and middle school update on the Sharing Site prior to future meetings. Council members can comment on minutes as well as the GTYS updates prior to the meeting.
- Kevin Samsel introduced himself and presented a powerpoint outlining the upcoming bond referendum. After the presentation council members had a variety of questions for Kevin. Additionally, some of the questions revolved around the use of technology dollars, so Steve Troen was able to answer some of the questions.
- New Council members introduced themselves. Rachel Utter, business representative, Rylee Smith, student representative from EHS, Miles Haugen, elementary principal, and Pete Roback, middle school administrator were present. Those introduced in absentia included: Jen Garnsworthy, elementary parent, Diane Johnson, high school parent, Bella Korah, middle school parent, and Dr. Tara Hedlund, high school administrator.
- Pam, with assistance from Rylee Smith, played a video sent by Sofia Troutman, regarding her son's experience at Young Scholars day camp. Day camp was able to operate with funding from the elementary schools, business partnerships, a grant from Bremer Bank, and student registration fees.
- Pam reviewed the purpose of the council and district policy regarding gifted and talented learners.
- ***The Possibilities Poster*** generated at the November 2014 meeting was reviewed. The possibility that received the most immediate support of the members at the time was to gather information regarding **the priorities** of district GTYS parents and students K-12. Pam shared with the group that last year's council decided that *parent information* would be the focus area as we moved forward gathering information about priorities. The group reviewed the questions that were generated last year and continued to refine them. The questions will be brought to the K-8 GTYS team and Supt's cabinet for review prior to the Nov. 17th GTAC meeting. At the Nov. meeting the questions will be finalized by the council. Due to the focus on the bond referendum, the parent questionnaire will be launched in December or January. Results will then be analyzed by the council at the February 2 meeting.

- As the meeting ended, Pam asked that members continue to share their thoughts on this document via the GOOGLEDocs site. Continued information will be given to the council via email referencing the sharing site in an effort to have information and next steps in this process ready for the November meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m.

**Future Meetings:**

**November 17**

**February 2**

**April 19**