

Alexandria City Public Schools

Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee

November 8, 2021 Minutes

Meeting: November 8, 2021, @ Ferdinand T. Day Cafeteria

Current and Incoming TAGAC Members Present: Nicholas Miller (Chair), Julia Egy (Secretary), Irene Arevalo, Zion Bezu, Mike Dukes, Melissa Kuhn, Mark Lacy, D Ohlandt, Laura Rose, Mary Beth Walker, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Liza Burrell-Aldana

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Chair's Opening Remarks

- The TAGAC Chair discussed TAGAC's Scope of Work, including work to finalize ACPS' 5-year plan.
- Discussed locations for future TAGAC meetings. Committee will continue to rotate around ACPS' schools for TAGAC meeting locations.
- The December meeting will be on December 13, 2021, in Samuel Tucker;
 - January 10, 2022, will be at Jefferson-Houston;
 - February 7, 2022, location TBD.

Dr. Tempel-Milner, ACPS Staff Updates/Comments

- Just finished the Naglieri testing window. CogAt Testing will end this week. There will be testing for students in quarantine.
 - Can pull scores from these tests from prior years. May also be other tests that would be accepted. Dr. Tempel-Milner is looking into this possibility.
- TAG referral deadline will be November 12, 2021.
- If you are GIA eligible, this doesn't mean that you will automatically be eligible for additional, SAA services in 4th grade.
- ACPS is screening 4 grades this year, so it will take the district longer to go through appeals.
- ACPS is moving toward an electronic screening format.
 - When TAG designees receive referrals, they must look through all of the documents on paper, but with electronic format, the record-keeping will be faster and more efficient.
- Referrals can be made on paper or in PowerSchool. If received on paper, the school will upload to electronic format.
- Parents should not wait for automatic referral. Instead, they should go ahead and submit a

parent referral.

- The automatic referral process is viewed as a safety net
 - 96% on Naglieri or CogAt and/or 95% on MAP.
 - Automatic referrals for math and ELA only.
 - Parents can also refer for Science and Social Studies assessment. They would need to do this through the parent referral process.
- All paper and electronic forms in 4 languages normally provided. They can also be translated into other languages.
- Teachers and staff can also submit referrals through November 12, 2021.
 - After that date, the parent permission process begins, as well as screening process.
- DEPs have also been updated and those will be seen in November report cards.

Liza Burrell-Aldana, Mt. Vernon Principal - (Part of Staff Comments)

- Ms. Burrell-Aldana is on an advisory committee to VA Boards of Education regarding TAG issues.
 - The committee meets 4 times per year (virtually). The first meeting was on November 15, 2021. There are 20-22 members who serve 3-year terms. Principals and professors from colleges. TAGAC member Laura Rose is the parent member.
- Highlights
 - Making sure that there are high-quality platforms for TAG education
 - Starting the program as early as kindergarten
 - Teacher preparation - teaching at this level takes a lot of learning regarding actions and gifted behaviors
 - Removing gaps in access and participation
 - Monitoring groups throughout their education.

Review of the Scope of Work

- Update on the 5-year plan
 - Drs. Mann and Tempel-Milner will present an update to the School Board in January. It will be a Board Brief, and in March they will present on the continuum of services and assessment/screening procedures.
 - They are hoping to have approval in May
 - Per Dr. Mann - There is a complication with Science, ACPS just lost their K-12 Science instructionalist. The current instructionalist is only qualified for elementary instruction. The Social Studies instructionalist just got back today from extended leave.
- NOTE: 5-year plan last done in 2011 and covered 2012-2017, must align with [8VAC20-40-60](#)
 - No current plan
 - Chair has worked on drafting a TAGAC portion of a new 5-year/local plan
 - Rules for subcommittee work, TAGAC cannot have more than 2 committee members together unless it is a formal announced meeting.
- Edits to scope of work included the following:
 - Added references to Young Scholars, Dual-Enrollment, AP.
 - A community member asked that accountability be included in the 5-year plan.

- Members agreed that it should be in the plan, and it will be added to the Scope of Work summary.
- Given substantive changes discussed above, the TAGAC Chair will update the Scope of Work and the committee will vote on it in December.
- A new 4th subcommittee will be created to address accountability/evaluation. The other subcommittees are listed in the Scope of Work document.

Subcommittee Assignment

- The committee members were then assigned to their subcommittees, and the subcommittees participated in a working session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.