



Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting
Spratley Gifted Center
January 22, 2015
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
- II. The director reviewed the recommendations made in last year's annual report, and the recommendations which will be made in the draft gifted resource program evaluation report. The committee discussed what recommendations could be made in the 2015 annual report to the superintendent. Ideas discussed included:
 - a. Possibly requesting an increase in the time allotted for the gifted resource classes (from 60 to 90 minutes), to better support the curriculum
 - b. Requesting additional teaching staff to assist with the increased enrollment and increased numbers of referrals, and to shorten the timeline for the eligibility process
 - c. Continuing to support increased differentiation for gifted students in regular classrooms
 - d. Including a question or two about gifted services in a division-wide survey that would go to all parents in the division, not just to parents of identified gifted students
 - e. Looking at additional options for gifted students in grades nine and ten
 - f. Consider ways to assist students in completing timed tests (SAT, eligibility, etc.), since previously taught test strategies were for untimed tests
- III. The possibility of establishing a gifted preschool was revisited. It would need to be self-sustaining, with no funding provided by the division. Time was insufficient for a detailed discussion, so a sub-committee may be established to look at this further. The preliminary discussion tonight included:
 - a. What preschool curricula are currently provided by local private schools? How would a gifted curriculum be different? How would this curriculum transition into the HCS kindergarten and Talent Pool curriculum?
 - b. What are the possibilities for scholarships for families who could not afford the tuition? We could check with the Community Services Board or other agencies, and also look for initial grant funding.
 - c. How would students be evaluated for the program? Would it be based on ability only, or also on achievement (reading or math levels)?
- IV. The director reported that the gifted resource staff attended the hearings regarding the superintendent search to speak in support finding a new superintendent who has experience and expertise in meeting the needs of gifted and advanced learners, as well as struggling learners. Kedra Jemmott has also been supporting the needs of gifted students through her participation in Key Communicator meetings.
- V. The committee discussed proposed topics for the next parent workshop, and determined that it should be a general information session about the HCS gifted programs, general characteristics of gifted students (the "look fors", especially in diverse populations) and the eligibility process for those programs. Next year's topics could include information on how to support gifted learners at home and in school.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Members present:

Cliff Shaffer
Tammy Russell

Steve Russell
Gwen Lee
Eric Stone
Kianga Thomas
Ken Crum
Ruth Grillo