**Gifted Education Advisory Council September 10, 2019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance:**

*Members:*

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| Jessica Huntoon | Chair |
| Patty Costis | Gifted Resource Teacher, Recording Secretary |
| Karla Stead | Sr. Coordinator, Office of Academic Rigor |
| Vicky Greco | parent, Nominating Chair |
| Diane Wishart | parent |
| Joseph Antolin | community |
| Christina Ohlrogge | parent |
| Katie Humphrey Morgan | Gifted Resource Teacher |

*Guests:*

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| Jill Carlton | Gifted Resource Teacher |
| Ghillian Porter Smith | parent |
| LaToya Rivers | Gifted Resource Teacher |
| Tanya Bhasin | School Board |
| Carter Melin | parent |
| Maury Howard | parent |
| Bruce Brady | Acting Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruciton |

Mrs. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

**Review of Meeting Norms:** focus on beginning and ending on time, and staying on topic. Mrs. Huntoon introduced the work session agenda for the evening

**Review of May (amended) and June meeting minutes:** Mrs. Wishart moved that the May and June meeting minutes be approved as written. Dr. Costis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Mrs. Huntoon reminded everyone present of the procedure for the Public Comment portion of the GEAC meeting. She further noted that the norms were printed on the meeting’s agenda. Norms for the Public Comment portion:

1. speakers, please limit comments to 3 minutes
2. responses from GEAC members are expected at a later time
3. Personal business should be addressed directly to the appropriate party, rather than during the Public Comment forum.

In addition to opportunities for oral comment, stakeholders may choose to complete a form to submit questions, concerns, and comments in writing.

Mr. Melin offered public comment regarding his twice exceptional 9th grade child. As part of the IEP process, a Functional Behavior Assessment revealed a need for specialized curriculum at a different school than her home school. Mr. Melin said he felt as though his daughter has been “pushed out of NPS” although she is enrolled in an alternative program through NPS. He asked GEAC to research and provide a list of other 2e students who have experienced similar placements as his daughter.

Per Public Comment policy, not verbal response was offered.

**Senior Coordinator’s Report**

Mrs. Stead reported the following:

* The College of William and Mary is continuing their needs assessment of gifted services in NPS. The survey sent to classroom teachers and gifted students will remain open until the end of September. Additionally, the survey was re-opened for parents. Response rates are low in all areas. Mr. Brady, as well as GRTs will send reminders, encouraging participation. Final report will be issued in November. Results will inform the audit William and Mary will perform. NPS goal for implementation of their recommendations is SY2021.

Other reports from GEARS:

**New Business**

* The School Board has created a new online application protocol for advisory committees in NPS. Mrs. Huntoon asked all current members to re-apply via the online application. Computers were made available at the end of the meeting for this purpose.
  + Mrs. Bhasin reported the School Board wants GEAC to adhere more closely to the local gifted plan with regard to membership. She encouraged all to send comments and questions about changes to the advisory committee membership.
  + A Google Doc will be established with changes so GEAC members can compare them with our current local plan. Mrs. Huntoon and Mrs. Bhasin asked to have all input completed before Oct. 1, as the City Council and School Board will be meeting on Oct. 1.
* The School Board will be invited to the October 1 GEAC meeting.
* Mrs. Huntoon asked: How might we establish an information loop with the School Board, in which feedback is shared and dialog is established to clarify points and ask and answer questions.
* GEAC will begin the cycle of brainstorm, research, narrow and recommend, as was completed last year. Discussion followed:
  + GEAC will brainstorm topics based on the recommendations made last year. The recommendations for 2019-2020 will be related to the recommendations made for 2018-2019, rather than brainstorming new recommendations.
  + Mrs. Wishart asked for more time to research each area from 2018-2019, to ensure all recommendations are data- or research-driven. She moved that the brainstorm session be postponed to the October meeting so we can accomplish the research task. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.