# Gifted Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) to the Norfolk School Board Presiding Officer: Dr. Ronald White

**November 14th, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was held at: Academy for Discovery at Lakewood Media Center located at 1701 Alsace Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23509**.**

# In attendance:

***Members:***

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| **Dr. Ronald White** | **Chair, Parent** |
| **Dr. Jori Beck** | **Co-Chair~~,~~ Community** |
| **Hollis Simodynes** | **Co-Chair, Parent** |
| **Karla Stead** | **Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS** |
| **Natalie West** | **Co-Secretary, Parent** |
| **Dr. David Courson** | **Parent** |
| **Jessica Huntoon** | **Parent/Community** |
| **Vicky Greco** | **Parent** |

***Guests:***

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| **Bruce Brady** | **Executive Director Department of Curriculum and Instruction** |
| **Megan Moorhouse** | **Parent** |

**Welcome:** Dr. Ronald White, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07p.m.

**Old Business**

**Review of minutes:** Dr. White asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes/notes from the meeting held on Oct 10, 2023, and that were provided via email for members to review.

At **6:09 p.m.** a motion was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded and all members were in favor of approving the minutes.

* Dr. White opened the discussion about revising Goals A, B, and C for Gifted Education within the district, to make them SMART goals.

**New Business**

* At 6:39 attendees discussed each goal and worked to make them SMART
* Dr. White began a discussion about how to improve the measurability of the goals and how GEAC can assess whether they are being implemented with fidelity. He offered that there are subject matter experts on equity in identifying gifted children and that the members of GEAC might invite a guest speaker on the subject to a future meeting.
* The group discussed how GEAC’s feedback to the NPS School Board applies to the development of the Local Plan.
* Dr. White stated that he thought GEAC could make recommendations to improve the goals in the Local Plan/
* Mrs. Karla Stead noted that the Local Plan may be revised by the NPS school board on an annual basis, as they see fit.
* Mr. Bruce Brady stated that there were many other stakeholders to consider, and he did not think the Local Plan would be revised solely based on recommendations by GEAC, going on to state that the role of GEAC is not to change the Local Plan.
* Mr. Bruce Brady stated that GEAC could monitor the implementation of the Local Plan, request data, review it and draw conclusions and make recommendations to improve performance and participation but stated again that GEAC could not revise the Local Plan.
* Mr. Bruce Brady noted that in past years, GEAC has made recommendations that he could implement personally within curriculum instruction, and that not all recommendations would rise to the level of changing the Local Plan.
* Mrs. Jessica Huntoon said that the group had referred to subject matter experts and gifted education initiatives outside of NPS and that in the past GEAC had done their own research. She questioned whether the members of GEAC understood the second order effects of their recommendations, which could result in wasting the time of educators.
* Mrs. Karla Stead noted that the Local Plan was focused on equitable identification, grounded in research-based strategies.
* Mrs. Vicki Greco stated that GEAC was committed to responsible advocacy.
* Mr. Bruce Brady said the members of GEAC should get to know NPS students through the information requested and received from NPS. He stated the members of GEAC did not have enough understanding about the students of NPS to make the recommendations discussed at the meeting.

**Public comment:** Dr. White opened the public comment portion of the meeting for stakeholders wishing to address the GEAC on the topic of their choice regarding gifted education. All stakeholders are welcome to give their full statements in writing to the GEAC chair at [rlwhite@nsu.edu](mailto:rlwhite@nsu.edu)

Follow-up regarding issues raised will be conducted as needed and shared with the full committee. No public comments were offered prior to the meeting.

**Announcements**

* + School Board Business Meeting (Budget Public Hearing), Dec. 13, 2023, 4:00 PM
    - School Board Dates: <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/nps/Board.nsf/Public>.

# REMAINING 2024 GEAC MEETING DATES:

* + Tuesday, February 13 @ 6PM, Media Center, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood (ADL)
  + Tuesday, March 12 @ 6PM, Media Center, ADL
  + Tuesday, April 9 @ 6PM, Media Center, ADL
  + Tuesday, May 14 @ 6PM, Media Center, ADL
  + Tuesday, June 4\* @ 6PM, LOCATION TBD \*Please note change to the first Tues. in June

**Chair Closing Remarks** -Members may submit all feedback via email to Dr. Ronald White at rlwhite@nsu.edu

**At 7:30 p.m. - Dr. White adjourned the meeting.**