

K-12 Talented & Gifted Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: March 23, 2011
Time: 3:30-4:15 PM
Location: JFK Middle School Library

In attendance: Linda Cavanaugh, Sarah Collins, Brian Zawodniak, Bonnie Mazzoli, Brian Jurkowski, Dave Guertin, Rachel Nalbandian, Christine Reale, David Mourad, Angela Foss, John Dague, Susan Boucher, Cindy Stamm.

Agenda and Discussion:

- Welcome by Linda Cavanaugh
- Introduction of Committee Members (school, grade level, TAG experience, etc.)
 - Sarah Collins and John Dague have been appointed the Co-Chairs of this committee.
 - The members of the committee bring a wide range of TAG experience.
- Background Information
 - The District received a bequeath from the Simcovitz family (approximately \$4 million dollars) to plan and maintain a Talented and Gifted Program for the Enfield Public Schools. The plan is to not spend the \$4 million dollars, but rather rely on the interest generated from these funds to cover costs, such as curriculum writing, professional development, salary, etc. It is anticipated that there will be between \$100,000 to \$140,000 per year available for these expenses.
 - The Board of Education subcommittee overseeing the TAG committee membership is Donna Szewczak, Peter Jonaitis, and Joyce Hall. It is expected that the TAG committee will provide monthly updates to this subcommittee as to our discussions, activities and timelines. These BOE members may also attend some of the TAG meetings.
- Discussion
 - It is expected that all of the TAG members will participate in the discussions and assist in the planning that we will be doing. The TAG committee will make decisions by consensus.
 - The majority of the TAG committee expressed the need to explore current T/G information and theory, what is being done in other districts successfully, etc. The membership feels that we need to start small and build a successful program through thorough planning and research. All want to see the TAG program be a well thought-out, planned, successful program that the Enfield community can be proud of and that will be sustained throughout the upcoming years.
 - A website was shared from the State Department of Education which has a wealth of information: www.state.ct.us/sde/det/curriculum/gtdefran/html

- There also was some initial discussion as to thoughts about program direction, criteria for selection, and legal issues to consider. Members expressed interest in visiting other districts to see successful T/G programs in action.
- One topic that was discussed in more detail was the concept of starting a TAG program at JFK with one grade level, focusing on STEM. The thought was that this would support future course offerings at the high schools (CSDE mandate, 2016). The committee agreed that we need to have further discussion regarding STEM, and the other possible TAG areas that could be pursued.
- Set calendar of meeting dates for 2011
 - Monday, April 4, 2011 from 1:30-3:30 PM at JFK in the library. This meeting will be an informational one with Dr. Sally Reis from UConn. Dr. Reis is known throughout the Connecticut educational community as an expert in T/G programs. Dr. Reis will not be charging us for her consultative services.
 - Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 2:30-4:00 PM at JFK in the library. This meeting will be to discuss the information presented by Dr. Reis and to then determine next steps.
 - Our plan is to set up a calendar of meeting dates at the April 13 meeting.