

GATE Advisory Council Notes
April 3, 2017

6:20pm

- JEN Welcomed new and returning members of GATE program. Asked returning members to stand up and demonstrate how the parking lot works.
- CA Can we review what the responsibilities of the site coordinators and it is worded in the master plan?
- JEN Caroline's concern is that I am doing too much alone and I don't have enough support. I'd like to get that reviewed at the next meeting and really iron that out.
- CA And if it is determined that what you need is beyond the hours a site coordinator works, how will the district support you? (Question wasn't really answered, but Sharon said we'd find a way to support her.)
- JEN I was going to show you some current events of our program. We are doing things like green screen, movie making, break-outs, puff mobile event. We also had Genius Night at Emerson. Genius Hour is a time that is built into the day so they can investigate things they are interested in during the school day. Kids did independent research on the topics. And we did an escape room at McKinley and Jordan did their feast night, which was very well received.
- CA Did you review how to find website during the meeting?
- JEN I would have loved to show it, but it didn't happen.
- MU My hot spot is working now.
- JEN I am not even sure which device to use!
- CA Did you talk about our Facebook Page?
- JEN Yes. I also went over new test data. Identification evened out throughout district. We increased EL participation. We used to only identify .7% of them and now we are identifying up to 4%. SPED groups increased as well. Across the board, all growth was positive. A 504 makes accommodations for a student's need based on a disability that impedes learning.
- PA What is the percent of 504's identified?
- JEN It was close to the number we wanted. I think it went up from 3 % to 4%.
- DAN Master Plan Update. We have been reviewing the plan throughout the year. We have made it through the first read through and now we are going back and adding in all the items in the right places to ensure it is smooth and clear before presenting it to the board.
- JEN We plan on working on GATE curriculum over the summer with interested GATE teachers who want to help us develop this.
- PA Do we have enough money to operate this program?

- JEN That's always a rough question with me because I will say the money is never enough. We do have funds that are providing services currently.
- SHA I am here to discuss Career Technical Education. As a state, we have made a shift towards CTE. We used to be of the mindset to get kids into college or career tech, but not both- not exposing them to both. But now we are making sure all students have opportunities for both of these types of educations.
- New programs are medical academy, global health, anatomy, physiology, careers in the med field, bio-technology, bio ethics, etc. We will also have engineering track. We have one in each middle school and at the high schools for 8th grade and above. We really want to open up this field. We want to start earlier, and introduce in elementary.
- CA For kids that do choir or band- they have to take a 0 period or summer school. Are they going to be forced to do this to take these tracks?
- SHA Yes. They will have to make hard decisions. You will have to craft a path for your child, but the social and emotional well being of our students is important. We want to expose them to as much as we can. We don't want to crush them and some will have a lot of anxiety. Whether it's lots of practice or many AP classes, kids sometimes begin to buckle. We want a team to help monitor them so that they succeed. We want to manage that "I can't breathe feeling." What is the thing we are going to cut back on and that might not be your child, but most students at some point or another will feel something needs to give.
- CA CTE classes have A-G approval.
- SHA In order to qualify for UC or CSU classes, you have to meet requirements imposed by UC or CSU schools. In the past, it hurt them because the classes didn't count. Many of our classes now are approved so that won't derail them.
- PA Seven period day within an 8 to 3 day allowing for two electives, and CTE classes can count as a core classes. Is that a possibility?
- SHA Instructional minutes were lost as a result of a seven period day, but it doesn't mean it won't be considered again.
- PA Is it correct that we don't require enough language in HS and it's required for college in CA schools?
- SHA That's an accurate statement.
- PA This is what started the conversation as a 0 period conversation as a middle school parent because we wanted to make sure they had the language requirements before high school or as they entered high school.
- SHA It is not a requirement for CA schools
- PA But it is for college in CA. What is the reason for no to 7 periods?
- SHA Less minutes in instruction, especially in Math.
- PA Are any CTE courses offered for 7th period?

SHA No one has been interested in them, so no.

PA For me 0 period is not good option for my 8th grader.

PA Who is teaching these classes, these CTE classes?

SHA We are using our current teachers. We have hired a couple, but mostly our own.

PA Can you touch upon the internships?

SHA We have a partnership with Nickelodeon, Disney. There's a lot of local businesses that are helping in this process.

PA How do you do this?

SHA You have to go to the Pathway, then you get recommended by teacher, and then take internship class- called Business Prep and the you get hooked up with the right business.

JEN Taking PE in the summer was a great thing for my child and gave him a free elective during the year.

MU But isn't the socio-emotional component important for these kids?

JEN For my child, taking away the stress of PE was worth summer school.

MU Could you explain 8th grade engineering courses?

SHA Luther started with the PISCO lab, a bunch of different programs. The other schools did it a bit differently. We are going to streamline this so that it feeds into HS better.

CA Talk about the dual enrollment with independent learning academy?

SHA ILA- newer school- work independently. Students attend school 1 or 2 times a week and do the work on line and take tests in school. But it doesn't have elective offers. So this allows them do the core classes at home, and they can take electives in school.

Another aspect- dual enrollment with colleges for college and high school credit. Child development or Speech, but they could start building the transcript while in HS.

We also have students that can take classes at the college in summer or fall, they have to get approval before they go. They have to meet with their counselor. What's important that they take the right class so that the classes are transferable. Check out UC doorways. They have this for community colleges. Also Assist.org and that would help you look for specific classes that would transfer.

JB I hear angst. Here's a thought- how about a quarter system? You could fit in more electives that way. There's gotta be a way to solve access.

SHA It's not through lack of effort. It's also a negotiated item, but so far, we haven't been able to cross that bridge and try something new. Stage production can be added on, it's a class, it's not part of the ILA.

PA SO we are offering dual immersion, but not offering language at middle and high?

SHA Our college bound kids have used their electives to get language, science, and/or math requirements so that they are ready for the college of their choices.

PA You are talking to a group of GATE parents who might have kids that want to do a sport, a language and band perhaps.

JEN I am living this right now.

PA But they have to do summer school. And they miss so much if they take Health during the summer.

JEN And there is a 0 period available in HS?

(Lively discussion- hard to take notes- people speaking too fast, but about offering more options for highly motivated kids to be able to take more stuff)

MU Part of the problem might be that we don't understand CTE and how it works and the A-G system. Is there a place on the website that explains it?

JEN Spoke about her own experience with her high school child, and in HS they start to say what they want and our job is to see if they are meeting their requirements. The Path starts to unveil itself, as they get closer to graduation.

PA How many students that applied from BUSD got into their choice schools?

SHA We don't know where they applied, but we do know where they go. I can tell you that 75%-80% of our kids go to GCC and CSUN. And then a spattering around go the country for the remaining 20%.

PA Math- if they have completed it early does that free up time in their schedule for other pursuits?

SHA No. For example, an engineering degree and the like needs 4 years of math, so if they get through CAL, they can take stats, business math, etc or more math at a higher level like a college level.

MU If we could see the prerequisite list, that would help.

SHA I will make sure we post it and you can call me.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm