

GATE Advisory Council Notes
May 1, 2017

6:17pm

Introductions. Went around room and introduced everyone.

6:20pm

New format. GAC every other month and the off months will be Parent Ed talks.

The Purpose-

- to learn about the program
- to problem solve improvements to the program
- to share ideas for growing the program
- to disseminate information about the meetings to all stakeholders

Discussion-

- getting information to and from people and how to do that
- we need to get the word out that it's not as negative as it once was
- more discussion regarding getting emails so parents of GATE students can share it with eaah other and can be able to help with car pools for pull outs, etc.
- if each site rep encourages another person to come to each meeting we can increase attendance, but people will either come or they won't.

6:40pm

Reviewed Agenda

- Survey results
- Goals
- Master plan update

Expert groups- come up with what you think are the 3 most important take-aways were from the data. Be prepared to present. We broke up into 3 groups and reviewed the data from the survey at the end of the year. Groups were students, parents, and teachers.

TAKE AWAYS

Teachers-

- low site support/ high district support
- how GATE teachers are selected is all over the place
- professional development- demo vs pull out

Parents-

- generally need more communication wanted
- improvements for GATE conference (student sessions)
- yeah for pullouts!
- differentiation should be seamless and when it is done well, it is almost invisible

Kiddos-

- middle schoolers are dissatisfied, but loved the pullouts
- elementary kiddos- happier
- middle schoolers thought that they were getting more work and not better, quality work and that people don't know who or what they are in terms of GATE.
- they want more pullouts and not mingled with other schools
- not challenged enough in elementary school and then in middle school they were too challenged

7:40pm

Master Plan Update

It's going to the Board and it's been a two-year process.

Everything that can be done to it has been done.

It will be posted and open to comments before final adoption by district.

Once it is approved, we will have more "teeth" to get things done because we can say, "As per our master plan."

-GATE for Special Education students and this is important for when they transition into high school.

-High school and how they view GATE. Many parents want to be removed because they think their kids are no longer GATE. We need to dispel this and offer socio-emotional support because to some kids a "B" is failing. And sometimes high school is not a challenge and sometimes it is and it changes from year to year. Tell high school parents of GATE kids to stay on the mailing list.

-Curriculum Writing. We did training over the summer with teachers and we created a One Note for teachers to share materials and lessons. This was done in Google Classroom. The CA Region was written for GATE specifically, but will benefit all students. It's called parallel curriculum.

I have been in some classroom and begun to implement co-teaching as a form of PD- the better form PD- for teachers and students.

7:50pm

Discussion:

CA- The earlier they fail, the better because it helps them cope as they get older.

HG- Consistency vs perfection. Know your kid and how they work.

JA- Behavior is different than intellect. Not putting pencils away or bringing in homework is not indicative of intellect. Maybe explore why and offer structures to help them succeed. There are different ways to do any type of a lesson but someone has to be willing to explore it

PA- Compare COGAT vs OLSAT results. How did you see them and was it what you wanted to see?

JA- It's the same amount, but the distribution leveled every site out. It identified EL's and reclassified students. It identified more students with a 504 plan. It did what we hoped it would do, which is identified with equity.

PA- Upcoming Middle School Math Night on 9/25. GATE conference on 10/7. Register on their respective sites. Feast night at middle school will be held at Jordan will be on 10/19.

Watched video of last year's feast at Jordan.

PA- Will there be a Barnes & Noble night?

JA- We are in the process of getting another coordinator for this event.

PA- CPK fundraiser?

PA2- Where does the money go?

JA- We have a GATE account. A large portion of the budget is me, then testing, the professional development and subs, then supplies- like the items for Breakout edu- etc.

DG- Money from fundraiser should go to GATE activities and items and materials. But subs should be paid by the district.

JA- They are, but a portion is earmarked for GATE specific needs. Next meeting is Parent Ed. Email me what you want to see on the meeting agenda or I will go from whatever we discussed and pick up where we left off at the previous meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.