

Quest Academy Gifted Advisory Council

QAGAC Minutes

February 10, 2011

6:00 p.m., Media Center

Council Members Present:

Lori Lee	Rob Dill	Renee Fisher	Pam Jones	Will Stewart
Cindi Sierak	Lydia Pinkowski	Aaron Kinkaid	Becky Carr	Cecilia Bennett
Lori Talley	Stacey Holcomb	Mary Beth Linstad	Matthew Goldrick	Meg Fifield
Cathy Dofka				

Council Members Absent:

Dana Pearce Mary Aske Richard Gregory Lisa Yount

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Chairman **Cindi Sierak** at 6:05.
- 2) Minutes from January 13th meeting were read and approved as written.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report: Lori Talley**
 - a) Balance as of 2-10-11: \$6,821.58

Ms. Hall Donation (Media and Technology Only)	\$2,200.00
Field Trips Fund	876.00
Dr. Patty Presentation 3hrs @ \$650/hr	1,950.00
Dr. Patty Expenses: Mileage, Hotel & Food (Approx.)	400.00
General Fund	1,395.58
 - b) Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Linstad proposed the donation be spent on Nooks.
 - c) Mrs. Lopez would like to spend the money on professional resources.
 - d) Mr. Malcolm reminded the council that the monies are to be used for items above and beyond what the school board should pay for.
 - e) Stacey Holcomb made a motion to get 5 proposals from teachers on specific media and/or technology needs for Ms. Hall's donation. Mrs. Jones to present at the next meeting. Mr. Kinkaid seconded the motion. Approved.
- 4) **Committee Reports:**
 - a) Research and Education: **Renee Fischer**
 - i) Ms. Fischer presented the PowerPoint from the SENG webinar "Understanding Over-excitabilities - The Joys and the Challenges".
 - (1) The council will provide links to the webinar material on the council website.
 - (2) Motivation will be the next SENG webinar topic.
 - b) Advocacy and Legislation: **Matt Goldrick** -
 - i) The Governor's budget report was released and Mr. Goldrick will bring details to the next meeting.
 - ii) Mrs. Dofka mentioned the draft of the State Plan for Gifted proposal was also released and she and staff are currently reviewing how it will affect Hernando County.

- c) Fundraising: **Lori Talley** –
 - i) Mrs. Talley asked the council for clear direction of how many cards to order. Several options were presented and reviewed.
 - (1) This vendor offers 20 offers of buy 1 – get 1 free.
 - ii) Mrs. Teague, a parent new to Quest Academy, and also a PTSA board member at J.D. Floyd, mentioned what that school has arranged with both their card vendor and Marco’s Pizza at a much lower price.
 - (1) J.D. Floyd’s vendor offers buy 1 – get 1 free throughout the year with many sponsors listed on the back of the card.
 - (2) Mrs. Teague offered to speak with Marco’s to see if we could get the same deal as J.D. Floyd.
 - (3) Mr. Malcolm suggested Mrs. Teague join Mrs. Talley’s subcommittee and work with her towards that goal.
 - iii) Mrs. Fifield introduced “Cookie Lee Jewelry” as a possible fundraiser.
 - (1) The council advised Mrs. Fifield she would need to seek district approval as an approved vendor first.
- d) Program Development: **Dana Pearce - Absent**
- e) Communication : **Aaron Kinkaid**
 - i) Mr. Kinkaid gave a presentation on Renzulli Learning.
 - (1) He advised the council that Renzulli was being underutilized by our teachers, and that we need to get kids actively using the site and all the wonderful opportunities it offers.
 - (2) He suggested mandatory assignments as a means to promote student participation.
 - (3) He also suggested sending an email to parents through Edline to help educate parents of the program and all it has to offer.
- f) Gifted Task Force Oversight – **Lori Lee**
 - i) Mrs. Lee spoke briefly about the topics covered by the subcommittee during their meeting prior to the GAC meeting and introduced Mr. Jim Malcolm, the committee chair during the previous two years.
 - ii) Mr. Malcolm gave a brief overview of what the school board had tasked the original Gifted Task Force committee prior to the opening of the Quest Academy, and reminded the council of their final recommendations as approved by the school board in 2008 without revisions.
 - iii) These recommendations are available for viewing on the GAC website located under the Minutes and Agendas tab.
 - iv) He made it clear that although the school has made major strides since its inaugural day, there are still issues this task force needs to be concerned about.
 - (1) Textbooks: Mr. Malcolm will review the current school board policy regarding access for each student and update the council of his findings at our next meeting.
 - (2) Clustering: Mr. Malcolm advised the council that administration is looking into the relocation of classrooms to help facilitate clustering among the Quest students. Mrs. Dofka and Mr. Dill will give the council an update at our next meeting.
 - (3) A current list of QA media material and what gifted services are being offered through the media center above and beyond what is provided the general population.
 - (a) Mr. Malcolm suggested we invite Mrs. Worrell to our next GTFOC meeting to help answer those concerns.
 - (4) The socio-emotional curriculum being utilized by Mrs. Stratton.
 - (a) Mr. Malcolm suggested we invite Mrs. Stratton to our April meeting to help answer those concerns.

- (5) Mrs. Teague asked about a support group meeting outside of school.
 - (a) Mrs. Lee advised her about PAGES of Hernando.
 - (b) Mrs. Teague would like the council to consider looking into putting something together to network with other parents.
- g) Council Representative Grades 6-8 – **Becky Carr**
 - i) Mrs. Carr brought up concern from middle school parents as to what constituted a passing grade for the new 7th – 9th grade algebra math exam.
 - (1) Mrs. Dofka said she would update the council at our next meeting.
- 5) **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Quest Academy Logo
 - i) Mrs. Dofka acknowledged the reasonableness of the teacher’s desire to have a specially designed t-shirt for spirit days and field trips.
 - ii) She also gave several valid reasons why the Quest Academy needed to keep our original logo and the plans to update the colors.
 - (1) The council paid to have the logo created and copyrighted the first year when the council launched its magnet fundraiser.
 - (2) The originally designed logo was approved by the council and has been used since the school’s first year.
 - (3) She reminded the council that plans have been made to change the current logo colors to reflect that of Challenger’s colors.
 - iii) Mrs. Lee advised the council about the need to keep the current logo to continue to reflect our individuality should the academy ever relocate.
 - (1) Additionally, the commercial cost of redesigning a logo and all items commonly associated with it would be cost prohibitive.
 - b) Mary Beth’s design may be used for T-shirts for field trips and spirit week attire.
- 6) **New Business:** n/a
- 7) **Open Agenda:**
 - a) Mr. Malcolm gave a farewell speech for Lydia Pinkowski who will be retiring February 28th.
 - b) Mr. Dill offered his monthly positive feedback for Quest:
 - i) The presidential models on display in the media center.
 - (1) The student’s of Mrs. Jones/Mrs. Lindstad’s 4th/5th grade classes created wonderful presidential models on display in the media center during the month of January for their monthly book report.
- 8) Next meeting is March 10, 2011 at 6:00pm in the media center.
- 9) Meeting adjourned at 8:14.