

## QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Minutes

October 1, 2009

6:00 p.m., Media Center

### Council Members Present:

Tom Barker	Kelly Chapman	Cindy Gustafson	Dana Pearce	Stacy Tarbox
Cecilia Bennett	Renee Fischer	Lori Lee	Dave Bute	Lisa Yount
Dianne Azzarelli	Scott Gooch	Pam Jones		

### Council Members Absent:

Sam Gonzalez	Susan Floyd
Jim Malcolm	Nicole Rundell

### 1. Welcome and Review of September Meeting Minutes – **Tom Barker**

- a. Council was welcomed; meeting began at 6:09 p.m.
- b. Meeting minutes were corrected (below); Motion to approve minutes made by Dana Pearce, motion was adopted.
  - i. Added item 4n: Dave Bute will serve as Chairperson for ByLaws/Advocacy and Legislation.
  - ii. Item 7c: Spelling of Cindy Gustafson's name corrected.

### 2. ESE Department Updates – **Cathy Dofka**

- a. The focus of the last School Board Workshop was intended to be rezoning, however it became focused on gifted issues; it was confirmed that the Gifted Academy will be staying intact as a full-time program, but location is being reconsidered due to EK-8's overcrowding.
- b. Cathy Dofka set a time to meet with the Gifted Oversight Committee to discuss alternate locations for the Gifted Academy; suggestions are still being accepted and are welcomed.
- c. A Board workshop in December will be held to further discuss options; if implemented, teachers of gifted will move with the program, and the move would take effect for the 2010-2011 school year.
- d. Cathy Dofka will report to GAC again at the November meeting with more information regarding her upcoming presentation to the Board regarding the location options for the Quest Academy.

### 3. Update on GAC Requests – **Dianne Azzarelli**

- a. GAC requested posting videos and podcasts on the GAC website; several recordings have been completed and are now in the process of being edited.

- b. With invitations to the ESE Staffing, letters inviting parents to tour the Quest Academy are being issued; each parent who has toured has agreed to gifted services at Explorer.

4. Changes to Plan B Eligibility – **Lydia Pinkowski**

- a. Plan B is an alternate gifted eligibility for underrepresented populations, i.e. free and reduced lunch and ELL.
- b. In the past, Part B included the use of the Gifted Evaluation Scale. Now, the county is using Hernando County's Gifted characteristics Checklist and Documentation of Need for Special Program, adapted from Renzulli Hartman Scale.
- c. Plan A requires 130+ on full scale (standard error of measurement can be considered) in addition to at least 51% of items must be checked as "Almost Always" or "Frequently" on the new checklist.
- d. Plan B requires 120+ on full scale and at least two thirds of items must be checked as "Almost Always" or "Frequently" on the new checklist. (Eligibility for Plan B is now patterned exactly after the State.)
- e. Re: data regarding the Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test - nothing received from School Psychologists regarding the Naglieri. Will be reviewed at a future GAC meeting.

5. By-Laws Review – **Tom Barker**

- a. Special attention was made to the following articles and sections of the bylaws:
  - i. Article IV, Basic Policies, Section 4: Representation
  - ii. Article V, Membership, Section 2: Number, Section 3: Terms, and Section 5: Nomination and Election
  - iii. Article VI, Officers and Duties, Section 2: Duties
  - iv. Article VII, Meetings, Section 5: Voting, and Section 6: Quorum and Manner of Acting
  - v. Article IX, General Provisions, Section 1: Amendments
- b. Past Taskforce notes will be reviewed (Cindy Gustafson) in order to make recommendation for how council positions will be replaced; either staggered or all at once.

6. IB Information – **Dianne Azzarelli**

- a. At 6:30 p.m. on November 4<sup>th</sup>, an informational meeting for IB program will be held at Springstead High School.
- b. Criteria for eligibility in IB program includes 3.5 GPA in 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, completion of Algebra I, either in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or through Florida Virtual School, and one credit of Spanish before entering high school.

7. Fundraiser Ideas – **Renee Fischer**

- a. Renee Fischer shared a fundraiser idea through “Celebrity Home”. Students would sell candles for a 50% profit on each item. Contact person is Ceely Richey. If sales began on November 9<sup>th</sup>, orders would be due November 24<sup>th</sup>, and orders would arrive for dissemination on December 11th.
    - i. Dana Pearce motioned that upon teacher approval, Renee Fischer will determine if Celebrity Home is an approved vendor. If yes, GAC will oversee the fundraiser, monies will be handled GAC treasurer and proceeds will be reserved for funding fieldtrips. Motion was adopted.
    - ii. Teachers will be surveyed and Pam Jones will contact Renee Fischer regarding teacher approval. Dianne Azzarelli will give Renee Fischer a student count with teacher names, and Renee will contact Ms. Richey to launch fundraiser.
  - b. Pam Jones discussed several additional field trips being discussed by Quest teachers; forms to collect parent input regarding possible field trips will be sent home to parents for feedback.
  - c. Kelly Chapman reminded Council that car magnets are still for sale and that she would be willing to assist with continuing the sales; Cindy motioned for Kelly Chapman to draft letter to Quest families regarding remaining magnets for sale. Motion was adopted.
  - d. Lori Lee brought up Bowl-a-Thon idea; Council decided that Bowl-a-Thon planned for this semester would be a social event rather than a fundraising event.
8. Sub-committee updates
- a. Fundraising – (see above)
  - b. Research & Education – **Tom Barker**
    - i. Book talk ideas were discussed. Those interested in participating in a book talk should contact Tom via email.
  - c. By-Laws/Advocacy and Legislation – **Dave Bute**
    - i. Legislation will start again in March.
    - ii. At next meeting, Council will discuss nominating volunteers to speak at next legislative meeting; PAGES of Hernando has talking points available.
  - d. Parent Volunteer – **Lori Lee**
    - i. After discussion with Dianne Azarelli, it was determined that coordinating parent volunteers for Quest will not be handled by Explorer, but rather Lori will coordinate.
  - e. Program Development – **Dana Pearce**
    - i. Contact was made with the Regional Director for Odyssey of the Mind; the Regional Director will attend a GAC meeting to explain the program; three to six teachers will go to Coaches training October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>; the tournament at River Ridge Middle/High School will be on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

- ii. National Scripts Spelling Bee information is being gathered.
  - iii. Duke Tip was discussed; Duke Tip is for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, test is “Explore”; 7<sup>th</sup> graders who take the ACT with scores of 20 or higher will be recognized by the State, Duke and other Ivy League schools track qualified students.
- f. Communication – **Lori Lee/Lisa Yount**
- i. Email addresses will be changed to [lastname@questgac.org](mailto:lastname@questgac.org)
- g. Gifted Taskforce Oversight – **Jim Malcolm**
- i. Additional subcommittee members are needed; anyone interested in participating, please contact Jim Malcolm.
  - ii. Oversight Committee will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. prior to the GAC meeting.

9. Open Agenda

- a. Foreign Language (Spanish) teacher at Quest Academy will possibly host an after school Latin club – more info to come.
- b. Pupil Progression Plan requires middle school students to take two years of Spanish to equal one year of high school of Spanish.
  - i. Cindy Gustafson motioned for the GAC to research Spanish I at the middle school level being equivalent to one year of high school (rather than two years at the middle school level), Dave Bute seconded motion. Tom Barker, Chairperson for Research and Education Committee, will begin looking into the issue. Motion was adopted.
- c. Tom Barker offered information regarding grading practices for elementary grades; several council members were interested in talking about this topic during future council meetings.

10. Next QAGAC meeting will be on November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., in the media center.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**Additional Attendees (as determined by meeting sign in sheet):**

Tracy Rivera	Lydia Pinkowski	Cathy Dofka	Scott Rogers	Sheila Rogers
Fran Poland	Ray Pinder	Judy Preuss		