

QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Minutes

November 18, 2010

Council Members Present:

Lori Lee	Cindi Sierak	Pam Jones	Will Stewart	Renee Fisher
Lori Talley	Rob Dill	Lydia Pinkowski	Cecilia Bennett	Meg Fifield
Dana Pearce	Cathy Dofka	Matthew Goldrick	Stacey Holcomb	

Council Members Absent:

Mary Beth Linstad	Aaron Kinkaid	Becky Carr	Lisa Yount	Richard Gregory
Mary Aske	Dianne Azzarelli	Kay Whitener		

1. Welcome and meeting brought to order by **Cindi Sierak** at 6:05.
2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer report – **Lori Talley**
 - a. Balance is \$6821.58. Cathy Dofka presented an itemized list of account transactions and will verify the \$151.56 difference with the EK8 bookkeeper and report findings at the next meeting.
4. **Officers' Reports**
 - a. Research and Education – **Renee Fisher**- Mrs. Fisher advised she will share information each meeting about a different topic for gifted children. The November topic was on motivation, in which she provided both the council and all in attendance a flyer on same.
 - b. Advocacy and Legislation – **Matt Goldrick**- nothing to report.
 - c. Fundraising – **Lori Talley**- advised council of two recommended fundraisers; the first is a Marco's Pizza card, in which the council would purchase each card for \$3, sell it for \$10, and make a profit of \$7 per card sold. The second fundraiser was decorating Marco's pizza boxes. For each decorated box, Marco's Pizza would donate GAC 15% from each pizza sale.
 - a) The Council approved the fundraiser for Marco's Pizza cards.
 - b) Mrs. Talley is going to meet with Mrs. Stoops to discuss what our options are for these two fundraisers and if we want to open it up to all of CK8 and get back to us with her findings next month.
 - d. Parent Volunteer – **Richard Gregory**- not present
 - e. Program Development – **Dana Pearce**- Mrs. Pearce advised the council about a particular parent/teacher/child workshop in which she requested the council's direction regarding inviting Dr. Patricia Gatto-Walden, a well known psychologist for her work with gifted children throughout the country, to our district as a speaker.
 - a) The council voted 10 to 3 in favor of Mrs. Pearce to retain the services of Dr. Gatto-Walden for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 including either a half day or full day of service in addition to all travel fees.

b) Mrs. Pearce will continue negotiations with Dr. Gatto-Walden and report back to the council at the December meeting with her findings.

f. Communication – **Aaron Kincaid**- not present

g. Gifted Taskforce Oversight – **Lori Lee & Cathy Dofka** –

a) Mrs. Lee advised the council she met with former GTFOC chair, Jim Malcolm, Cindy Gustafson, and Cathy Dofka to get a current update of QA affairs.

b) Mrs. Lee advised the council that her subcommittee will meet on an as needed basis only.

c) Mrs. Dofka gave the council a letter summarizing the current state of affairs at Quest Academy.

i. Mrs. Dofka advised the council that although we've experienced both moving and growing pains this year, there are some very positive things that are occurring at Quest.

1. Our new gifted staff members have received extensive training on the many aspects of the gifted curriculum, such as:

a) William & Mary including an offering of an after-school webinar

b) Singapore Math

c) Differentiated Instruction in the gifted classroom

d) Training in the use of the Renuli Learning System.

2. Dr. Shaunessy, from the Department of Gifted Education at USF will be providing **monthly** training sessions for our teachers starting in December and continuing until the end of the school year.

3. Of the gifted teachers, one teacher has a Masters in Gifted Education, and six (6) teachers have their Gifted Endorsement.

4. Ten (10) teachers are who are currently taking the Gifted Endorsement classes in which they have completed two (2) of the five (5) components needed and will have the opportunity to complete two (2) more classes before the end of June 2011. The final component will be offered in July 2011 allowing teachers the chance to complete all necessary Gifted Endorsement components **prior** to the beginning of the 2011-2012 school years.

5. There are four (4) teachers who, as yet, have not started their endorsement classes.

6. To assist with the Quest Program, the veteran teachers with the Gifted Endorsement have been mentoring the teachers new to the Quest Program.

d) Council Rep, K-2 – Unoccupied position.

e) Council Rep, 3-5 – Cecelia Bennett volunteered to take this position.

f) Council Rep, 6-8 – Becky Carr- not present

5. Unfinished Business:

a. Election of Council Rep K-2 tabled until the December meeting.

b. Logo shirt update – **Mary Beth Lindstad**

6. New Business:

a. Council Member Update – **Lori Lee**

a) Mrs. Lee advised the council that two members, Kay Whitener and Dianne Azzarelli, have not been present for three out of three GAC meetings, therefore, she asked the council for direction according to council bylaws as to the disposition of these non-functioning members.

b) The council, in a two-thirds vote, elected to dismiss both non-functioning members.

- c) Mrs. Lee also advised the council that a fair process for all Quest Academy parents needed to be approved to determine a nomination procedure if and when the council determined the two open positions needed to be filled.
- d) The Council approved Rob Dill to distribute a letter to Quest parents by December 1st to inform them of the two open council positions and the nomination procedures via the Quest website.

7. Open agenda

- a. Lori Lee advised the council of information regarding PAGES of Hernando and also about an opportunity through a program from the Council for Exceptional Children in which parents, teachers, administrators, and children can “Share Their Stories.”
8. Next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 6:00p.m. in the media center.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:34