

QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Agenda

April 2, 2009

6:00 p.m., Media Center

Council Members Present:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Tom Barker | Kelly Chapman | Cindy Gustafson | Dana Pearce | Carmela Sardogan |
| Cecilia Bennett | Renee Fischer | Pam Jones | Stacy Tarbox | Lisa Yount |
| Kelly Brewer-Balch | Scott Gooch | Jim Malcolm | Lori Lee | Pooman Malholta |
| Nicole Rundell | | | | |

Council Members Absent:

Sam Gonzalez Genie Toner

1. Meeting brought to order: 6:04 p.m.
2. Welcome, review of March meeting minutes – **Tom Barker**
 - a. Tom Barker made welcoming comments.
 - b. Minutes from 3/5/09 meeting distributed; motion made by Renee Fischer to approve, no members opposed.
3. Proposed changes (at State level) to the gifted education program – **Cindy Gustafson**
 - a. Cindy discussed some recent developments at the state level that may impact gifted programming and funding. Proposed changes are currently being reviewed by gifted advocates and organizations. There is concern that there may be a concerted effort in the works to move gifted out from under the ESE umbrella. Gifted advocates believe this will adversely affect funding and the various rights and protections our children have under current legislation, such as FAPE (the right to a free and appropriate education). Cindy urged all attendees to join a local or state gifted organization like PAGES (www.pagesofhernando.org) or the Florida Gifted Network (www.floridagiftednet.org) – most are free to join – so they will be on an alert mailing list.
4. Formation of Grant Committee – **Pam Jones & Cindy Gustafson**
 - a. Pam was able to acquire a huge technology grant for the district. Cindy motioned the formation of a grant committee and Tom seconded motion.
5. Communications – Idea to promote community awareness – **Pam Jones & Cindy Gustafson**
 - a. Stacey has developed a rapport with newspaper reporters and invited one to AGE night; Dana Pearce led a reporter through the classrooms on AGE night.
 - b. Cindy presented idea of a standard press release protocol. The council determined that as much positive press as possible will be welcomed, and that Quest will have a designee for press releases.
6. Gifted service options, upcoming presentation to school board – **Cathy Dofka**
 - a. On April 21st, Cathy Dofka is giving a presentation to the School Board on the expansion of gifted services in the district, to offer options in addition to the full-time gifted program.

- i. Option 1: one day per week pull out program to Explorer
 - ii. Option 2: offering consult model (teacher to teacher only)
 - b. Cindy motioned developing a very brief statement of support for Cathy's continuum of gifted services options to bring to the Board. The board voted on and unanimously approved a statement of support.
 - c. Parent, Liza Bullock, expressed concerns with offering a one-day-a-week gifted option at Explorer. Ms. Linstad (Quest teacher) and Ms. Dofka provided information to Ms. Bullock in an effort to assuage her concerns.
- 7. Oversight committee's findings regarding 3/21 school board workshop – **Jim Malcolm**
 - a. Lori Lee, Kelly Brewer-Balch, Jim Malcolm, and Cindy Gustafson, attended school board workshop. Discussions included:
 - iii. rezoning – Quest will *not* be moved.
 - iv. space – 40 or so students will be sent to zoned schools; students on waiting list for magnet schools will be offered a spot; letters are being mailed home to ask if parents would like their children to return to J.D. Floyd.
- 8. Treasurer report – **Pam Jones**
 - a. Additional \$145 in magnet sales has been generated, for a grand total of \$1,391.82 currently in the QAGAC account.
- 9. Sub-committee updates
 - a. Fundraising – **Kelly Chapman**
 - i. 85 magnets remain; Kelly proposed sending another flyer and having money sent directly to her to relieve teachers of dealing with receipts, checks, etc.
 - ii. Bowl-A-Thon - 33 bowlers will participate, including parents. Still planning for incentives and prizes; any connections to businesses or donators are welcomed. Pledge form will be going out tomorrow to students. Lori Lee asked that pledge forms be posted on the web for download; website is linked to Edline.
 - iii. Cathy Dofka is attempting to handle checking account issues, possibly by creating an internal account.
 - b. Research & Education – **Tom Barker**
 - i. Tom is interested in researching homework and bringing in information from his personal book study.
 - ii. Suggestion made to expand resource library; also to gather information or articles to post on website as "media resource" section for parents.
 - iii. Tom asked for topic ideas for which he can gather information.
 - c. By-Laws/Advocacy and Legislation – **TABLED**
 - i. Cindy reported that by-laws are in process and should be ready by next meeting.
 - d. Parent Volunteer – **Kelly Brewer-Balch**
 - i. Kelly Brewer-Balch has received about 30 volunteer applications; still need more volunteers
 - ii. Kelly is looking for suggestions for increasing volunteers and for keeping information updated.

- e. Program Development – **Dr. Poonam Malhotra**
 - i. Dr. Malhotra participated in a webinar that addressed many topics associated with gifted children; she will ask about getting the webinar in a format that could be distributed to families of Quest. Her notes will be shared via email.
- f. Communication – **Stacy Tarbox**
 - i. No additional information at this time.
- g. Gifted Taskforce Oversight – **Jim Malcolm**
 - i. Jim Malcolm has met with each school board member individually.
 - ii. The Quest Academy has 100% support from each of the five School Board members; they indicated that they would not disrupt the Academy.
 - iii. Ray Pinder will be the Principal next school year, along with two new Asst. Principals who will be assigned to Explorer (Barbara Kidder and Diane Azarelli).
 - iv. Jim Malcolm motioned allowing David Bute to join Gifted Taskforce Oversight Committee; Stacy Tarbox seconded motion.

10. Open Agenda

- a. Lydia requested that Quest have a booth at Parent Night at the Parent Institute on Wednesday October 21st.
- b. Jim Malcolm brought up last years proposal for three administrators and a Gifted Center Coordinator. Jim motioned for the possibility of allowing him to lobby to the School Board to have four administrators based on the student enrollment approaching 2000, and having Dana Pearce take that fourth administrator position.
- c. Duke Talent deadline has passed, however applications are still being accepted through June 1st.
- d. Stacy Tarbox discussed concern regarding current class sizes. Cathy Dofka reported next year's class sizes to date, and explained plan for splitting classes (K/1, two 2nd, 3rd).
- e. Fundraising or event ideas for next year should be brought to the next meeting. Ideas should be put on the calendar and planning should begin as soon as possible.

11. Next QAGAC meeting will be on May 7th, at 6:00 p.m., in the media center.

12. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Joanne Yarin | Fran Poland | Lydia Pinkowski | Cathy Dofka | David Bute |
| Karen Striegel | Lori York | Liza Bullock | Dale Travis | Mary Beth Linstad |
| Stefany Syblis | Gisette Korman | Jennifer Radtke | Tracy Rivera | Radames Rivera |
| Cindy Armstrong | Annie Beeman | Bonnie White | | |