

QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Minutes
September 3, 2009

6:00 p.m., Media Center

Council Members Present:

Tom Barker	Kelly Chapman	Cindy Gustafson	Dana Pearce	Dianne Azzarelli
Cecilia Bennett	Renee Fischer	Lori Lee	Stacy Tarbox	Nicole Rundell
Jim Malcolm	Scott Gooch	Lisa Yount	Dave Bute	Susan Floyd

Council Members Absent:

Sam Gonzalez

1. Tom Barker welcomed parents who came to attend Welcome event.
2. General meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.
3. Welcome, review of May meeting minutes – **Tom Barker**
 - a. Tom Barker made welcoming comments.
 - b. Minutes from 5/5/09 meeting distributed in a folder that also included QAGAC meeting minutes from last year.
 - c. Revisions were recommended:
 - i. Dave Bute was added to the sub-committee in April, and made a council member in May.
 - d. Tom Barker made a motion to approve minutes, no objections noted.
4. Council Member Updates, Corresponding Secretary Position, and TBA positions – **Tom Barker**
 - a. Kelly Brewer-Balch stepped down from council membership and sub-committee chair position.
 - b. Steve Bennett stepped down from council membership and responsibility as co-council representative (Cecilia Bennett spoke for Steve Bennett).
 - c. Pam Jones was confirmed as council member and Treasurer.
 - d. It was accepted by Council that Poonam Mulhotra and Carmella Sardogan were no longer interested in Council membership.
 - e. Sam Gonzalez – council will wait to see if Mr. Gonzalez is able to attend October meeting before considering removal from membership.
 - f. Lori Lee agreed to serve as Parent Volunteer Chair, which was accepted by Council.
 - g. Kelly Chapman agreed to serve as Council Rep K-2, which was accepted by Council.
 - h. Dana Pearce will serve as Program Development Chairperson; Cindy Gustafson made motion, Lori Lee seconded motion.

- i. Fundraising Chairperson – Motion made by Tom Barker for each fundraising event to be individually led by volunteers, chairperson position will remain vacant; motion seconded by Renee Fisher.
- j. Scott Gooch will serve as Council Rep 3-5, motion made by Tom Barker, all in favor, none opposed.
- k. Corresponding Secretary – motion made for position to remain vacant, all in favor, none opposed.
- l. Diane Azzarelli, Assistant Principal for QA, 7th and 8th grades, was introduced as council member.
- m. Jim Malcolm proposed that after minutes are approved by Tom Barker, they be sent via email to all council minutes no less than two weeks prior to the next QAGAC meeting, and be disseminated by Diane Azzarilli at the next QAGAC meeting.
- n. Dave Bute will serve as Chairperson for ByLaws/Advocacy and Legislation.

5. By-Laws distribution

- a. Tom Barker requested that council members review By-Laws and make comments at October's QAGAC meeting.

6. Updates from ESE Department

- a. Lydia Pinkowski reported the results of 105 gifted referrals from April of last year. A total of 30 new gifted students began this school year (13 transfers or re-entries, and 17 new eligibilities), 63 referrals resulted in ineligibility, parents chose not to place, etc., and twelve students still need to be tested.
- b. Current gifted enrollments:
 - 1st grade – 6 students
 - 2nd grade – 17 students
 - 3rd grade – two classrooms, 15 and 12 students
 - 4th grade – two classrooms, 21 and 20 students
 - 5th grade – two classrooms, 19 and 20 students
 - 6th grade – 44 students
 - 7th grade – 32 students
 - 8th grade – 22 students
- c. Cindy Gustafson requested that the number of students who were screened, evaluated, and ultimately found eligible for gifted, be shared with the council (specifically for data regarding the Naglieri Non-Verbal Ability Test).
- d. Lydia Pinkowski described the changes in Plan B Gifted eligibility that have been recently incorporated in the SP&P's.
- e. Jim Malcolm requested that field trips to Explorer be considered for students (and parents of those students) who have met eligibility criteria for QA; Scott Gooch suggested extending an invitation to AGE night; council discussed options for getting parents to observe classrooms in action, possibly with single invitation or small group. A

suggestion was made by a parent to schedule a classroom visit during the eligibility staffing meeting.

7. QA Website – suggestions for enhancing website

- a. Stacy Tarbox explained current status of website; embedded email links to council members have been set up.
- b. Lydia Pinkowski requested that the ESE Department be highlighted on website.
- c. Cindy Gustafson recommended additions to the site including an “About Quest” tab, to highlight curriculum, Quest staff, etc., an “In Our Classrooms” tab (with students possibly producing content); a hyperlink to EdLine and posting podcasts and video were also suggested.

8. Open Agenda

- a. Parent Institute, October 22nd, 5:30-8:30 p.m., West Hernando Middle School, “Gifted Sessions”
 - i. Teachers can add the Parent Institute in newsletters, teachers can reward students.
 - b. Grant opportunity – Sam’s Club, \$1000, Dianne Azzarelli would like ideas for Quest Academy submissions
 - i. Cindy Gustafson gave suggestion for biblio-therapy, character development, books for parents as well as students in a library in media center
 - c. Scott Gooch requested clarification on number of voting members, and whether additional member can be voted in; Cindy Gustafson clarified that By-Laws state council can have no more than 21 members, but By-Laws do not specify a minimum.
 - d. Jim Malcolm motioned for Dianne Azzarelli to be a voting council member, Scott seconded.
9. Next QAGAC meeting will be on October 1st, at 6:00 p.m., in the media center, and all future meetings will be on the first Thursday of each month (dates for the remainder of the school year were confirmed)
10. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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

Judy Preuss	Lydia Pinkowski	Cathy Dofka	Barbie Gregory
Cindy Armstrong	Patty Preiato	(one add’l illegible signature)	