

GT Task Force – January 30, 2020 Minutes

Upcoming Meetings -
Room 222 at the
Administration Building:

- March 25
- May 6

I. Welcome

Everyone shared his or her name, role, and time in FBISD.

II. History of GT Task Force

- The Enriched Learning Department organized the GT Task Force in 2017-18.
- Committees worked throughout the school year to provide input and recommendations for FBISD GT programming based on the Texas State Plan for the Gifted and Talented.
- Original members were recognized and included: Pippa Day, Jigisha Doshi, Kate Faulkner, Angie Hanan, Kamilah Holmes, Cathy Hunter, Fahmi Kahn, Michael Madden, Tammy Marino, Glenys Mc Mennamy, Jennifer Nichols, Dr. Devin Padavil, Diana Sayavedra, Crystal Wilson

III. Development of Five-Year Task Maps

- During the 2018-19, Task Force members organized and prioritized committee recommendations from 2017-18 subcommittee work.
- With the help of Dr. Lynette Breedlove, the committee created three 5-year task maps that outlined the process for addressing the recommended priorities.
- The three 5-year task maps include structural improvements to support the GT program, GT program student services and supports, and monitoring and feedback to provide accountability within the GT program.
- Notes on “actual finish” column of task maps: “In progress” indicates the department is actively researching, planning, or meeting to address this task. “Ongoing” indicates the department has completed the task to the point of being “ongoing” from this point forward.

IV. 2019-20 Initiatives “In Progress”

- Communication Plan (Nancy Bryant)
 - Implemented a monthly newsletter that goes out to subscribed families, focusing on all grade levels.
 - More present on social media, using Twitter and tweeting regularly. The department will brainstorm a better plan for doing this, as the original plan was not easily implemented.
 - Two more people in our department have been trained on website editing, and our goal is to make sure all website information is current and complete. This is a work in progress, but we work on it daily.
 - Newly-identified students will be receiving a bookmark of “plug-in” information, including the GT website, newsletter, GT PAC, and PACE.
- TPSP Curriculum Integration (Dr. Joseph Cahill)
 - Meetings have been held with all secondary coordinators in the four core content areas regarding TPSP integration. Specific TPSP projects have been chosen in

collaboration with the coordinators utilizing their expertise on the curriculum and content.

- TPSP will be integrated into the instructional delivery focus of the curriculum under the enrichment section. The projects will be labelled GT and provide teachers will all of the tools necessary to facilitate the TPSP process.
- Innovation (Genius) Hour Curriculum (Dr. Joseph Cahill)
 - A fluid model has been established to support implementation for Year One. The curriculum is currently being designed for three grade levels. Year One Innovation Hour will be rolled out in second, sixth, and ninth grade.
 - Modifications are being examined to provide effective opportunities at all three levels. Mr. Hejducek raised the question of how Innovation Hour would be proposed for secondary campuses; specifically inquiring about the course approval process. In current planning, Innovation Hour is meant to be completed in approximately 60-90 minutes per week; this does not constitute a full course.
- GT Parent Series (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - GT Parent Series has been well attended and the GT department will continue to offer opportunities each month this semester. The next event will be the Summer Expo on February 12, 2020 – a joint effort with PACE.
- Local Norms (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - Campus Selection Committees implemented local norms (determined by Hanover Research in January 2019) during the identification process in January. The GT department will share the impact of these norms on GT numbers at an upcoming meeting.
 - Mrs. Doshi shared that local norms (expectations) should be used also at the campus level, encouraging each campus to differentiate their services based on the number and specific needs of their gifted population.
- Champions of Gifted Services (COGS) (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - COGS have recently met with GT department. Information shared included GT Learning Plan accountability, three-hour mandatory summer PD, and TPSP Showcases.
 - Mr. Hejducek asked that the COGS stipend structure be reconsidered next year for campuses with large GT populations.
- GT Learning Plans (GTLPs) (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - GT Learning Plan status:

	Signatures	Submitted	Missing	Total GT Students
Elementary	357	1674	9	1683
Middle	263	1599	61	1638
High School	65	1328	534	1862

- Based on this data, the department has identified concerns and improvements needed:
 - *Currently, parent communication box on the GT Learning Plan form is not mandatory. We are finding that the form can submitted without indicating contact with parents. This box will be mandatory for the 2020-21 school year.*

- *Low numbers of parent acknowledgement (signing) of the GT Learning Plans.* We will be creating a job aide for this process to be shared with parents, as well as work with COGS and communications, to communicate with parents, encouraging them to sign their child's GTLP (or if there are issues with the GTLPs, communicate with their child's teacher).
- *Quality and/or relevancy of goals is inconsistent across campuses.* The GT Department will pull sample goals (exemplars) from this year's GTLPs and use them as part of our mandatory three-hour GT training this summer (which includes training on goals and GTLP implementation). In 2020-21, the department will also be documenting consistent implementation of the GTLPs including quality checks of goals on each campus.

V. 2019-20 Initiatives "Coming Soon"

- Secondary GT Curriculum (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - The department plans to roll out the secondary GT curriculum in 2021-22.
 - The secondary GT curriculum subcommittee is working to provide feedback on this curriculum
- GT Crosswalk Tool (Dr. Laurie Westphal)
 - Rather than developing "another" evaluation tool, it has been suggested that the crosswalk tool become part of the current CST walkthrough tool. This would add a few questions to the tool which would become available if the GT present option is selected at the start of the tool.
 - The CST tool will be revisited by Teaching and Learning in March for the 2020-21 school year, so additional information on this tool will be "coming soon."

VI. Subcommittees

- Agenda items listed above did not conclude until 5:55pm, so subcommittees did not have time to share their progress. This will be prioritized for the next meeting.

The purpose of the GT Task Force is to provide feedback on the alignment of the FBISD GT program and the *Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students*. As an advising group, the Task Force researches, recommends, informs, and suggests best practices for growing and strengthening the FBISD GT Program aligned to the five-year task maps.