

## **Gifted and Talented Task Force Meeting**

September 2, 2020

### **Members Present (alphabetically):**

Nancy Bryant, GT Mentorship Specialist  
Joseph Cahill, GT Curriculum Integration Coordinator  
Jigisha Doshi, Parent Representative  
Kate Faulkner, Intervention and Enrichment Coordinator  
Ida Ford, Executive Director of Elementary Schools  
Pasha Goodman, Assistant Director of Leadership Development  
Shannon Gray, High School Assistant Principal  
Angie Hanan, Parent Representative  
Michael Hejducek, Middle School Principal  
Deena Hill, Executive Director of Student Support Services  
Aisha Holmes, GT Program Manager, Secondary  
Kamilah Holmes, GT Academy Coordinator  
Cathy Hunter, Parent Representative  
Eshram Khade, High School GT Student  
Shweta Khade, Elementary Assistant Principal  
Lisa Langston, Elementary Principal  
Brett Lemley, Area VII Assistant Superintendent  
Carlete Meytoyer, Coordinator, Counselor  
Laurie Westphal, Director of Gifted and Talented  
Crystal Wilson, GT Program Manager, Elementary

### **Guests in Attendance:**

Beth Martinez, Chief Academic Officer

### **Members not in Attendance**

Amanda Andersen, Assistant Director of Special Education Dispute Resolution and Parent Support  
John Aven, Parent Representative  
Irvin Casey-Hayford, High School Counselor  
Lisa Coston, Literacy Director

Pippa Day, Elementary Counselor

Michael Fernandez, High School GT Student

Sonya Hale, COGS

Matthew Hill, High School GT Student

Sai Kurelli, High School GT Student

Orjanel Lewis, Community Stakeholder

Tammy Marino, Parent Representative

Glenys Mc Mennamy, High School ELA Teacher

Makhi Moore, High School GT Student

Jennifer Nichols, Executive Director of Secondary

Jeff Post, Middle School Principal

Rizvan Quadri, High School Principal

Samiah Thomas, Middle School Math Teacher

Pilar Westbrook, Executive Director of SEL and Comprehensive Health

**Call to Order: 11:30 am**

## **Agenda and Notes**

### **Item 1: Welcome**

**Opening Question:** If you could eliminate one food, what would it be?

Deena Hill: Thank you to those who are in attendance today, especially the evening of the Board meeting and after the first two weeks of school. We have been getting a lot of questions from parents about GT and the fear surrounding the services once the transition to Face-To-Face (F2F) takes place. Students will be with GT-trained teachers with a focus on minimizing disruption. We will not be able to know specifics until we have actual data. However, GT services will continue to be provided and staffed with the appropriate teacher(s). Thanks to subcommittees for continuing the work of the Task Force and to the GT team for keeping the work moving forward.

### **Item 2: Subcommittee Reports and Feedback Requests**

**Acceleration**, Angie Hanan

Progress since July:

- Received feedback from the Task Force regarding acceleration work completed so far
- Looked through the feedback and made adjustments
- Definition of acceleration
- Worked with Director in Irving ISD answering very detailed questions; putting responses in a Google form to look at as a subcommittee

- Mapping out a potential pilot

Feedback Request – Consider the proposed 1.5 model for clarity, additions/deletions, questions/concerns

**Communications**, Nancy Bryant:

Progress since July

- Campus website – common GT page pushed out to all
- Innovation Hour Parent Guide
- The Who and How of communication identified
- Communication Flows defined for both approval and distribution

Requesting Feedback on the Who and How of Communication document – each subcommittee is assigned different sections (identified on the shared feedback document)

- Are the communication vehicles listed for each topic and audience the most appropriate and efficient?
- Are there other communication vehicles you would suggest that are not listed here?

**Curriculum**, Joe Cahill:

Progress since July:

- Established a definition of flexible grouping and flexible pacing
- Definition alignment with district goals
- Delineated different types of flexible grouping available in FBISD
- Created resources regarding flexible grouping strategies.

Requesting feedback on naming of the showcase (vote), definition, alignment with district goals, and flexible grouping options.

**Service Design**, Cathy Hunter:

Progress since July:

- Interviewed 3 districts regarding secondary program options;
- Creation of definition of differentiation in secondary
- Student survey developed

Requesting feedback on the definition of differentiation and the effectiveness of the secondary student survey questions.

**Student ID/Program Expansion**, Crystal Wilson:

Progress since July:

- Completion of the GT Learning Plan At-A-Glance document and sent to District Communications;
- Additional questions added to parent guide
- Developing/finalizing the program guide.

Requesting feedback on the added questions for the program guide.

### **Item 3: Subcommittee Work/Feedback – Breakout sessions/shared document**

### **Item 4: Clarifying Feedback**

#### **Acceleration:**

- Overall the plan looked really good; second page where number of campuses was designated – perhaps not commit to a number
- Are the cohort students scheduled together from grade 3 (mini academy)?
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders taking AP exam
- What is the contingency plan for a student who starts to struggle?
- ELA curriculum impact and options for later high school years?
- Entry points – plans for late entry

#### **Communication:**

- Questioning the term “evaluation window”

#### **Curriculum:**

- Add more detail to the types of grouping (how, when, timeline, etc.) Access to data? Frequency?
- Should there be a distinction between “experience vs environment”

**Service Design:** Resources and equitable access needs to be added to the differentiation definition.

**Student Identification/Program Enhancement:** Clear outline of the reduced number of campuses as part of the pilot – different from last year needs to be emphasized.

Laurie Westphal: Files are available in the Schoology September meeting folder “Resources for Feedback.” Items are still open for feedback if there is a desire to go back and examine the documents more deeply. Department will meet to go over the feedback document and gain clarification prior to meeting with subcommittees to inform their work.

To go assignment: Take a moment to post your favorite quote.

**End time:** 1:00 pm

Next meeting: October 7, 2020, 11:30 – 1:00 via Teleconference (Zoom or Teams)