

Gifted and Talented Task Force Meeting

April 29, 2020

Members Present (alphabetically):

Nancy Bryant, GT Mentorship Specialist

Joseph Cahill, GT Curriculum Integration Coordinator

Lisa Coston, Literacy Director

Pippa Day, Elementary Counselor

Jigisha Doshi, Parent Representative

Kate Faulkner, Intervention and Enrichment Coordinator

Michael Fernandez, High School GT Student

Ida Ford, Executive Director of Elementary Schools

Pasha Goodman, Assistant Director of Leadership Development

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

Shweta Khade, Elementary Assistant Principal

Orjanel Lewis, Community Stakeholder

Tammy Marino, Parent Representative

Calette Meytoyer, Coordinator, Counselor

Makhi Moore, High School GT Student

Jeff Post, Middle School Principal

Rizvan Quadri, High School Principal

Ashli Taylor, High School Assistant Principal

Laurie Westphal, Director of Gifted and Talented

Crystal Wilson, GT Program Manager, Elementary

Also in Attendance:

Charles Dupre, Superintendent of Schools

Beth Martinez, Chief Academic Officer

Diana Sayavedra, Deputy Superintendent

Members not in Attendance

Irvin Casey-Hayford, High School Counselor

Matthew Hill, High School GT Student

Bhadm Khade, High School GT Student

Sai Kurelli, High School GT Student

Lisa Langston, Elementary Principal

Glenys Mc Mennamy, High School ELA Teacher

Jennifer Nichols, Executive Director of Secondary

Radha Sriram, Campus VIP

Samiah Thomas, Middle School Math Teacher

Pilar Westbrook, Executive Director of SEL and Comprehensive Health

Call to Order: 1:31, welcome from Dr. Deena Hill

Agenda and Notes

Item 1: Dr. Dupre shares expectations

Is this an approach we may want to continue using (Zoom)?

Several months ago, task members had concerns they brought to Charles Dupre. He has been in contact with Laurie Westphal, Deena Hill, and Diana Sayavedra to find what was going on – not making the progress he had expected, nor having regular monthly meetings.

Apologies from Charles Dupre for this happening and for losing momentum (Board sentiment as well).

What do we need to do to get this back on track? We are not a blaming organization, but we got busy checking execution boxes without thinking them through upon implementation. Disconnection between task force and staff; misunderstanding and confusion.

GT is and has been a priority in FBISD. This has not always been the case per the history, but GT started to become the focus about 1-1 ½ years ago. Deena's leadership critical; right director in Laurie Westphal based on expertise and passion for GT learners. No sugar-coated report will be given to the board – it will clearly delineate where we've been and where we are going.

Hoping to build a new energy for regular meetings.

Immediately went to Diana Sayavedra and discovered the tasks were not being completed in the way they should be. This will not happen again with the new leadership and commitment in place. Charles Dupre will be in attendance at the coming meetings, as will Diana Sayavedra to check in and support.

Deena Hill thanked Charles Dupre for his support and opportunity to lead the department in these initiatives.

Aisha Homes was introduced to the committee as the newest member of GT Department, GT Program Manager for Secondary.

Carlete Metoyer introduced as new member to the Task Force.

Michael Hernandez introduced as new member to the Task Force

Comment box question (Angie Hanan): How was scheduling of less than once per month determined?

Laurie Westphal: Determined by Troy Byrne in order to have every-other month so that more time was given to progress on the work.

Chat box question (Tammy Marino): Who decided that we would be monitoring work and not actually doing any more planning/work? Was it not Diana Sayavedra?

Diana Sayavedra does not recall having made that decision. Troy told this information to Laurie Westphal once the task maps had come out. She does not know if that information went to the Task Force as a whole.

Item 2: History of the Task Force

Angie Hanan

Recognition of the original members of the task force

Power Point – When Task Force began, there was a very large group from multiple areas and expertise. Began work through graphic organizers that were given to subcommittees; subcommittees met outside of Task Force meetings as well. This was a very large undertaking.

Spring 2018 – hard deadlines, committees charged with pushing recommendations forward to leadership. All research-based and well-developed. Revision of EHBB – approved Fall 2018

2018-2019 – Dr. Lynette Breedlove hired as a consultant to help create task maps (moved from 3-year plan to 5-year plan)

September 2019 – EHBB Procedures (Operation Procedures/GT Handbook) approved. Public-facing on the website.

Angie Hanan felt that those new to the Task Force didn't know their charge. Everyone needed a task map in order to recommend how to best move forward – not starting from ground zero. New members encouraged to go to the Task Force folder in Schoology and review the files to get acclimated.

What is on the Task Maps – 3 overarching areas

Identified key staff that needs to be on the task force. Filtering out who needs to be a part of Task Force all the time or just requested on occasion for expertise and consultation.

Who is the executive sponsor of the various projects/tasks? It cannot be just Deena Hill and/or Laurie Westphal. The scope of work is too large.

Discussed timelines, due dates for deliverables for accountability.

Item 3: Purpose of the Task Force (currently and going forward)

Deena Hill: The purpose has not changed – continued collaboration, feedback

Running the Task Force in a more structured manner

Everyone working on a subcommittee needs to be clear who is in charge of it and what is due and when.

Key executive leaders are part of the Task Force; making sure of a solid implementation and considering how it affects each stakeholder.

Item 4: Review Memo to Task Force with updates on Metrics/Milestones and GT 5-Year Plan Updates

Presentation to the Board on May 11 – will consist of Deena Hill, Laurie Westphal, Tammy Marino, John Aven, two students

Items to the Board: Progress Report (not currently finalized) Once finalized, information will be in Schoology in writing.

Glows and Grows

Glows: Embedding supports into the curriculum; Joe Cahill has been added to GT staff and is working with the GT team and with T&L to prepare for Innovation Hour, TPSP.

Increase in GT population

Show and Tell replacing the Showcase and will allow students to participate and share.

Integration of the projects into the curriculum units.

Communication increase – newsletter, increase in communication to parents

Grows: Communication related to GT Learning Plan; communication is always an area of improvement, as in every organization

Work was not done on the acceleration implementation; we must figure out how to do this, but we need to consider what the priorities are.

Secondary programming will be a big rock this coming year.

May need to change something to acceleration subcommittee

GT Crosswalk tool needs to be developed.

Item 5: Discuss design/subcommittee work revision based on 5-Year Plan progress

There are many overlapping pieces, so the way the task map is designed, you may see replication. Noted for completion, on track, in progress (deadline has passed and will not be met, but completion is expected), adjust (not on track, needs to be revised in its timeline, wording clarification, or scope).

Integrity of the task map will not change, but we need to make sure we go about it by getting the best leverage for our kids. What are the big priorities for kids?

Comments Clarification/Purpose for Comments:

EX: Establishing a communications subcommittee...deadline of May 2019; Have we met that timeline? That is the purpose for the comments on the right.

Question from comment box: (Angie Hanan) How many of the Task Force members are familiar with the task maps? (majority gave thumbs-up)

Feedback tool in Schoology – Flipgrid activity in April 2020 folder to get input from each member on the Task maps

Look at the questions through the lens of clarity. Look at the adjustments, specifically.

Feedback needed on these Padlets - requested to be finished by the end of next week.

Padlet to be used for School District employees, Google for out-of-district (or other method that makes sense for each user). All feedback will be collected and evaluated.

Acceleration will be its own subcommittee, and other types of extensions, pacing, curriculum will be addressed by another subcommittee. Tammy Marino mentioned having the "right folks" via the comment box, clarifying that it should be people who want to serve on the subcommittee.

Subcommittee lists will be posted in Schoology so the assignments can be considered, as well as possible movements.

Item 6: Review Monthly Meetings (May 13, June 10, July 15) 2:30 – 4:00 via Zoom

Several parents asked that we reconsider the time because of school pickup schedules; lunch meetings to be considered and will likely be scheduled moving forward . Will have students give feedback to initiatives outside of that meeting because of their school schedules.

Notes and minutes will be housed in Schoology. Questions and comments solicited (none).

Meeting adjourned: Diana Sayavedra, 2:59 p.m.