

Gifted and Talented Task Force Meeting

May 13, 2020

Members Present (alphabetically):

John Aven, Parent Representative

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

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

Glenys Mc Mennamy, High School ELA Teacher

Carlete Meytoyer, Coordinator, Counselor

Jeff Post, Middle School Principal

Rizvan Quadri, High School Principal

Ashli Taylor, High School Assistant Principal

Pilar Westbrook, Executive Director of SEL and Comprehensive Health

Laurie Westphal, Director of Gifted and Talented

Crystal Wilson, GT Program Manager, Elementary

Also in Attendance:

Beth Martinez, Chief Academic Officer

Members not in Attendance

Irvin Casey-Hayford, High School Counselor

Ida Ford, Executive Director of Elementary Schools

Pasha Goodman, Assistant Director of Leadership Development

Matthew Hill, High School GT Student

Bhadm Khade, High School GT Student

Sai Kurelli, High School GT Student

Lisa Langston, Elementary Principal

Makhi Moore, High School GT Student

Jennifer Nichols, Executive Director of Secondary

Radha Sriram, Campus VIP

Samiah Thomas, Middle School Math Teacher

Call to Order: Deena Hill, 2:30 pm

Agenda and Notes

Item 1: Welcome

Schoology group overview

Highlight of Board Update Memo

Item 2: Subcommittee Work (Breakout sessions)

Item 3: Report Subcommittee Considerations and Challenges

Laurie Westphal asked for subcommittee discussions to be shared while the group viewed the Committee Considerations document that was compiled during subcommittee meetings:

- **Acceleration** (Angie Hanan speaking) – Big Rocks- definition of acceleration in FBISD; Research

Next steps – In addition to a definition, create a vision of acceleration to align with vision and mission of the district and assure alignment with the State Plan.

Concern - Make sure not to duplicate work for flexible pacing and flexible grouping.

- **Communication** (Tammy Marino speaking) – Big Rocks - Review website, create communication protocols and flow, extensive collaboration with district communications department

Next steps – break down the website into manageable parts for review; research possible Microsoft Workflow for communications protocol(s); newsletter (what and for whom)

Concern – level of cooperation/collaboration with Communications, especially during “hot” times (Bonds, elections, pandemic, etc.)

- **Curriculum** (Joe Cahill speaking) -- Big Rocks: Innovation Hour, TPSP, curriculum and extensions (communication to students and teachers) S/E components, tiered instruction

Next steps: look into resources that describe what these things look like and how they are described in the district. Deeper look into policy and GT handbook to make sure what is intended is actually happening. Determine WHO we will be coordinating with when working with T&L.

Concerns: Pilot/Implementation schedule, Social/emotional components of the curriculum, renaming of extensions

- **Service Design Enhancements** (Kamilah Holmes speaking) -- Big Rocks: What will the nuts and bolts of any secondary program look like and the Independent Study pilot

Next steps: norms of being innovative and creative when looking at possibilities; look far and wide at successful programs; definition of differentiation for secondary. Should be part of every student’s experience.

Concerns: Structure for evaluation, which teachers can teach GT electives and the training involved, how this will look for large vs. small GT pop campuses, budget and staffing

- **Student ID and Program Expansion** (Crystal Wilson speaking) – Big Rocks: CST Crosswalk Tool, GT Learning Plan, VISTAS program expansion

Next steps: Identify a feedback protocol for reviewing process of CST, GT Learning Plans, and Vistas.

Question/Concern about extensiveness of things to review and getting the knowledge base on all of the programs they are overseeing.

Laurie Westphal:

Timelines – there may be times that subcommittees need to come together in between of the GT Task Force monthly meetings in order to keep making progress.

Of all of the things you have seen and heard, identify something from the other subcommittees – a phrase or thought of what you see of value in the document.

Tammy Marino – Excited to see what the acceleration team does.

Michael Hejducek – Level of support will be the big component when rolled out. What are teachers going to have to do, and are they going to be able to do it effectively?

Angie Hanan – looking at flexible pacing and flexible use of resources; moving away from calling it the GT showcase; movement away from the reputation that students cannot move beyond curriculum.

Kate Faulkner – acceleration's commitment to mission and vision

Ashli Taylor – curriculum – how the extensions are going to look in the different course work for high school

Cathy Hunter - Communications – changes that effective communication can accomplish

Michael Fernandez – communications and collaboration within the committees

Jeff Post– Curriculum – where going with innovation hour and seeing how curriculum extensions will look on multiple campuses

John Aven – service design enhancements critical to what actually happens in the GT programming, feedback loops and their impact

Pilar Westbrook – communications – knowing that there will be specific paths to each stakeholder

Jigisha – communication – trying to address that “weak straw” and the way the meeting was run today with the breakout and coming back together.

Deena Hill – request to capture the chat

Thanks to Laurie Westphal and team for the work on the task maps; value of committee members and collaboration; excited to tap into the GT passions and experiences as we move forward on the 5-year plan.

End time: 4:03 p.m.

Next meeting: June 10, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.