

GTAC Meeting

September 28, 2017

Julie Skolnick, Secretary

In attendance: D.Bailey, J.Barata, K.Benson, A.Briggs-Blake, L.Brody, D.Counts, T.Daniels, S.Douglas, M.Gaines, M.Gluck, Y.Golczewski, E.Hartley, T.Jackson, K.Johnson, M.Joyner, B.Knight, K.McCormick, J.Offenbacher, T.Recor, J.Reinhard, B.Riegel, K.Rigler, F.Ross, S.Schroth, J.Skolnick, S.Spinnato, f.Stout, A.Tetreault, C.Thompson, R.Tyler, R.Garber, P.Zimring, M.R.Islas(Guest), B.Knudsen(Guest)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, and Updates

a. Introduction of New Officers and Members (Bruce)

Bruce welcomes and thanks committee. (Md. Charities campaign occurring simultaneously to this meeting in the lobby outside the room).

Three basic things to cover today: updates, subcommittee work, and guest presenter.

i. Three officers announced: Co-Chair, Theresa Jackson, Co-Chair, Penny Zimring and Secretary, Julie Skolnick

ii. Kerry stepped down and resigned from GTAC

iii. Added secretary because need minutes and also because State's attorney's office said fall under State Sunshines laws so need to post minutes. Also needed additional input for decision-making.

iv. Membership attendance - required attending 2 of 4 meetings. Saw that several members did not attend any meetings and thanked them for their service, but then looked for members who were school-based, LEA based who could add that perspective to our combined viewpoints.

New Members:

Don Bailey: Anne Arundel County Teacher

Eunice Chu: Montgomery County Teacher

Tadem Daniels: Baltimore City Principal

Shontel Douglas: Baltimore City Principal

Erica Hartley: Washington county Teacher

Molly Hoyner: Harford County GT Specialist

Rick Garber: NorthBay Education Foundation

Handouts: Several related to meeting as well as brochures re. Opioid abuse, as well as brochures for science and math teacher awards

b. Council Meetings, Mission, and 2017-2018 Goals Penny

Mission: To encourage and support the education of students who are identified as gifted and talented and twice exceptional in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Code of Maryland Regulations. Gifted and Talented Education, the Md. Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines, as well as the National Association for Gifted Children 2013 standards for gifted programming through education, advocacy, and recognition in order to ensure identification.

Goals: (dovetails into subcommittees)

increase public awareness, why need our support

Professional learning

Support for districts re. Self improvement

Increase public awareness through recognizing teachers and professionals (EGATE award)

c. Council & Sub-committee Structure for 2017-2018 Theresa

i. Programs, Services & Professional Learning

a. Used to be 2 subcommittees we merged

ii. Awards and Recognition

a. Changing how we do the reception a little bit; laid groundwork last year by adding EGATE showcase

iii. Program Improvement

iv. Public and Community Awareness

Committee members should think about goals and details for the structure provided.

Member question: Who will be on what committee? Answer: We used to appoint people to committees, but hopefully programs, services, & professional learning will stay the same with Kim and Ainsley as co-chairs, also with Awards and recognition. But with Program Improvement and Public and Community awareness, we will see who is interested in what and try to make sure the member numbers are even.

d. Criteria for Excellence Revision (ad-hoc Committee) Theresa

Ad hoc sub committee worked this summer (met twice) looking at guidelines school districts use to develop GT programs and services. Started with identification (hand out for members). Goal is to go over each part of Criteria for Excellence and add

glossary and bibliography. The document is based on extensive discussion and is being shared with GTAC to get thoughts and feedback and the committee from the summer will finish incorporating any edits. Need to draft plan - whole committee will be involved in some way whether on small committee to edit or larger committee giving feedback. If you are a new district leader and need guidelines, what can you pick up and get information - this is the document trying to create. Very specific. Can use document to leverage and support arguments.

Committee takes time to review doc alone or with a partner and to mark it up and give to the committee. And we will do the same with GT supervisors to get as much feedback as possible. Members hand in edits.

e. MEGS Update Penny

Professional Learning: every year MEGS and MSDE sponsors an annual GT conference. Anne Arundel county hosting at North County HS on October 20 (conference day for many teachers throughout the state). Keynote Dr. Brian Housand from East Carolina U. his keynote is Curiosity: Cat Killer or Mother of Invention. Will also do a session on Fake News. Also more than 30 teacher leaders throughout state will present break-out sessions. Including Jonathan Plucker from Hopkins. Penny brought paper registrations - Oct 6 deadline for paper registration, but can email www.megsonline.net. Great conference for general professional learning and if school going for EGATE status. About 400 people in attendance. At least three sessions on EGATE. Objective 4 of EGATE for schools isn't as successful for schools - re. Evaluating - so there will be a presentation on EGATE to help schools with the process.

f. MCGATE Update Yvonne

Thanks everyone for contacting legislator about Jacob Javitz we got funding restored. Appreciates other voices helping MCGATE. Opportunity to speak up on state level - Maggy Macintosh Md. Commission on Innovation for Excellence in Education - want feedback from stakeholder; public hearings around state and opportunity to speak up on GT. October 12 at 5:00 at Baltimore Polytech. Yvonne cannot attend and encouraging people to attend. Another meeting will be in Upper Marlboro. Yvonne offers to help people to write statements. Would be great to identify ourselves as a group.

Rick - hearing tonight in Frederick and on 25th in Prince George's County.

Catherine Winkler - Can Bruce give us dates and where to send written information for public hearings? Bruce will get the information from Rick and sent it out today.

g. MSDE Updates Bruce

i. ESSA and Javits Grant

We received \$2.5 million Javits grant over 5 years. Bruce and Susan Spinnato had 3 weeks to write grant. Applied for last Javits grant in 2015 and did not receive the grant. The State intends to take steps to add “gifted and talented students’ as an add’l student group by the end of school year 2017-2018. State will add GT as a student group will be official student group in Maryland for data collection. LEAs will now be required to collect data on gifted and talented, courses, professional learning opportunities. Includes in every section of ESSA plan under every section. Theresa question: if districts give push back this is still going to happen? Don’t know the answer - this is the statement. Theresa: If any point in the next year change from intent and statement can be taken back? People at MSDE are feeling very strongly about this - based on comments from GTAC both in person and in writing. This happened because of members who made comment and testimony about the need for GT-ID, programming, professional learning. GTAC had a huge impact.

Do you see a need in year for continued advocacy. There is always a need for continued advocacy on all GT issues. Would it be appropriate for this group to express gratitude? Yes. Send Mary Gable - one individuals, thanking her and the committee and the board for advocating for this for seeing the need for supporting our GT students and families. Important to come from all different communities. Send letter from entire GTAC with positions and locations. Group letter to State Superintendent Karen Salmon.

Javits:

- \$2.5 million over 5 years
- Partnership with JHU CTE (center for technology and education) creating gateway or platform for students/parents/educators/IHEs/Researchers offer 2 way you can get info and give info. Professional learning communities embedded so people can start to talk to each other about GT education. Share ideas, thoughts.
- Creating of online Gateway Portal/Platform

- Development of Stat GT Identification Guidelines; look to Criteria of Excellence; number of people working on this; GTAC and Jonathan Plucker will work with GTAC on everything.
- Superintendent workshop after develop guidelines. Will involve nationally known presenters so they can hear real deal on why we need GT education.
- 5 LEA sub-grants to create and implement professional learning and new state guidelines. Follow students because will hopefully have previously unidentified students now being identified - we will follow those students and look at pre and post scores to see how students are improving once receiving GT support. So number of research studies.
- Educator workshops.
- Research will be conducted and findings published (on portal and on the outside) Really want to help those who are not being identified.

ii. MD Summer Centers

- Camp Summit East: enter for Exploration and Innovation
- JHU/APL Center for Space Science (need to find funding)
- RAMS Center for Ecosystem Education (RAMS donated over \$100K to this center and has and continues to. Adding 3rd week next year.
- Outward Bound Center for English Learner Leadership - had 12 kids on Appalachian Trail. Kids loved it.
- Center for Global Languages Meade Middle Schools.

All Jack Kent Cooke Funds have been exhausted from the grant given years ago. Many kids can't pay for the summer centers. One of the GTAC subcommittees will look into fundraising for these programs.

iii. EGATE Update

- State board recognition of 2016 schools
- Letters of intent are due sept 29 have 23 letters of intent (but don't have to turn in letter of intent to turn in the portfolio)
- Application and binders due by 4:00, Dec. 1

2. Sub-committee Work

- a. Programs, Services, and Professional Learning Kim and Ainsley Co-Chairs
- b. Awards and Recognition Bertha will fill in until designated chair; big event in Feb. recognize EGATE and individuals. There is no fundraising in this committee

- c. Program Improvement from a district level; Jessica Reinhardt will chair
- d. Public and Community Awareness; Need a chair or co-chairs
- 3. NAGC's Strategic Framework: Changing Minds, Policies, and Practice M. Rene' Islas Executive Director, NAGC
 - a. "Giftedness Knows No Boundaries"; Rene Islas, E.D. for NAGC, Bill Knudsen - Director of Govt. Affairs at NAGC
 - b. Showed slide of language of what Maryland plans to do - committing to having GT students as an identified student group is huge.
- i. NAGC committed to supporting all children from all backgrounds to reach their personal best
- ii. Vision: GT universally recognize and that kids are nurtured to reach best.
- iii. Four services for members in the field
 - 1. Education resources, training, books
 - 2. Advocacy
 - 3. Community Building
 - 4. Research (backed by research from JHU, UConn, etc)
- iv. Framework for NAGC to do work
 - 1. Change minds, change policies and change practices
 - 2. Change minds
 - a. Talk to selves (support internal debates); talk beyond ourselves - general public gain understanding to garner support
 - 3. Successes within the public beyond our inner circle
 - a. The Gifted Movie
 - b. The Big Bang Theory
 - c. The Good Doctor
 - d. The G Word
- v. Policies
 - 1. Giftedness knows no boundaries - there are resources on website (this addressed the vision of minds)
 - 2. Policies - Bill Knudsen was part of writing ESSA and is now at NAGC;
 - a. Policy at federal level now shifted to states; congress is on hiatus from elementary ed; not a lot of innovative policy making to influence - will come maybe

10 years down the road so have to prepare selves and field when debates begin again.

b. NAGC wants to protect Javits GT program (Congress put it back in after administration took it out)

c. Addressing Disproportionality; looked at research and state of the states to look for opportunities for growth. Want to ensure child as go state to state can be within environments for learning.

i. See Me: Equitable identification is a goal. Model legislation that requires states and districts set out their i.d. Policies in equitable way.

ii. Teach Me: Measuring learning through accountability systems that monitor progress.

iii. Challenge me: stimulate learning through acceleration. Problems - tradition of schools cautious about innovation. Parents nervous about social/emotional aspects of it. Policies need to be in place that don't lock step kids. Need to educate based on research.

iv. Understand Me: Help educators understand the nature of learning needs of gifted learners through effective prof. Learning and preparation. Member mentions that there is a need for more classes in grad school

3. Next Steps

a. Legislative Language - NAGC wants to adapt to GTAC goals

b. Building a Corps of Advocates; strategically; 435 Districts in US. Have i.d'd 7 Strategically target states - CT, TN, VA, NC, OK, MO, Washington state. Federal through Javits.

c. 5 pieces of model legislation; want states to recognize they can configure, adapt and customize for their state.

d. Training for Results

i. Can all do better in how we can advocate. Looking at nat'l picture, people on ground need continued support and training to change policies, minds and practice. (see advocate for gifted page on NAGC website)

4. Practices

a. New Pres. sees different way to interact with students

b. Introducing at NAGC convention - practices

- i. Unveiling micro-credentialing support to empower supporters of the gifted to implement effective practices for all GT children; homes, schools, communities
 - ii. Standards for Professional Learning;
 - 1. Learning communities
 - 2. Resources
 - 3. Leadership
 - 4. Learning designs
 - 5. Outcomes
 - 6. Implementation
 - iii. Professional learning for Impact; focus on competencies or practices that people in homes, schools and communities in order to implement in states. Micro-credentials really about outcomes. What is competency and how to demonstrate the competency.
 - iv. What are practices that are needed to build skills in to implement in schools (what is missing)
 - 1. Prof development
 - 5. Need to be unified and come under one voice
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- 4. 2017 - 2018 G/T Advisory Council Meetings @ MSDE:
 - a. November 29, 2017 (Time: 10:00 - 1:00)
 - b. January 31, 2018 (Time: 10:00 - 1:00) (SNOW DATE: February 6, 2018)
 - c. April 19, 2018 (Time: 10:00 - 1:00)
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- 5. Other Important Dates for Your Information (Other dates will be added to this list):
 - a. September 19, 2017 State BOE Recognition of EGATE Schools (Time: 2:00)
 - b. September 29, 2017 EGATE Intent to Apply Letters DUE
 - c. October 20, 2017 MD state Conference on Gifted and Talented Education (North Co. HS, AACPS)
 - d. November 9 - 12, 2017 NAGC National Convention (Charlotte, NC)
 - e. December 1, 2017 EGATE Applications and Binders DUE by 4:00PM
 - f. December 4 (4 days TBD) EGATE Portfolio Evaluation – Howard County Library
 - g. February 2018 Gifted and Talented Education Month

- h. February 21, 2018 Celebrating Gifted and Talented Education in MD Awards (North Co. HS, AACPS)
- i. March EGATE Showcase (Date and location TBD)
- j. March-April: EGATE School Visitations/Celebrations
- k. April 29 - May 1, 2018 Wallace Research Symposium (Mt. Washington Conference Center, Baltimore)
- l. June-august: MD Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students
- m. September: State Board EGATE Schools Recognition (TBA)