

**Douglas County School District
Gifted and Talented Task Force Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2014
4:00 p.m.**

**Minutes Approved
February 17, 2015**

MINUTES

Present: Brandon Swain, Director of Education Services – Area 4
Teri Jamin – Board Member
Jason Reid – Principal- Piñon Hills Elementary
Jennifer Spohr – Gifted & Talented Teacher
Kristi Reck – Gifted & Talented Teacher
Manya Brooks - Parent
Keely O'Donnell – Gifted & Talented Teacher

Call to Order:

Mr. Swain called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introduction of attendees.

Public Comment: No public comments were offered.

Purpose of Taskforce:

- Questions about how current GT curricula would be delivered in the 6-8 middle school setting.
- Possibility of collecting data on GT students who underperform or have behavioral issues at current middle school settings?
- Introduce GT program at DCSD Board meeting.
- Push in versus Pull out GT programs. Push in may have ancillary benefits to non-GT students in regular classroom settings.
- Possibility of substitute teachers for GT classes.
- Time demands on GT teachers for training and identification testing.
- Survey to be done of what GT looks like at each elementary school.

GT Students and Stem:

- Information provided about possible opportunities for GT student engaged in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics blending of curricula.
- Some ways that STEM may be delivered in elementary Science kits, in teams at the 6-8 grade middle school setting, and at the DHS STEM Building were described.
- Training for teachers on “Teacher Engineering” from UNR.

Review of Title I school testing of 2nd graders:

- 213 second graders tested this fall
- 8 tested at or above the 95thile
- Use of Naglieri Test of Non-Verbal Skills
- Description of Naglieri Test
- Are there other ways that English Second Language Learners can be tested that reflect intellect irrespective of language barriers?

GT Nights and GT Competitions:

- GT Creativity Night – District-wide, held at a different elementary school each year. March 3rd – 5:30 – 7:00 at GES
- Opportunity for families to come and participate in hands-on activities from our curriculum.
- Center For Bright Kids – Informational session for parents of gifted students to know about testing and summer opportunities. PHES is now a testing center for EXPLORE.
- SES and CCMES – Family Fun Day each spring with guest presenters and family activities for all GT students and their families.
- CCMES (fifth only), SES and PHES – Math Olympiad – a nation-wide math contest, teams include all students in the fifth and sixth grade advanced math classes.
- CCMES and SES – Chess Club before-school open to all students. (Not up and running yet, but will be this year.)
- Geography Bee Facilitator at SES.
- The first two items are district-wide. I know other GT teachers do activities specific to their schools (for example Jen S. is running a book club at PHES), and I am sure every teacher has things going on.
- The Inventor's Challenge – held at UNR

Future Agenda Items:

- GT Curricula in the 6-8 middle school setting.
- Deeper discussion of Push in versus pull out GT programs.
- Quantifying benefits of the GT program for GT students and other students.
- Substitutes for GT teachers.
- Alternatives to present process for GT testing.
- Alternative Identification methods for ESL students.

Adjournment:

(For Possible Action)

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,
Brandon Swain, Director
Douglas County School District
Education Services; Area 4