

**Douglas County School District  
Gifted and Talented Task Force Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2015  
3:30 p.m.**

*Minutes Approved  
April 18, 2016*

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Jason Reid, Principal-PHES  
Jennifer Spohr – GT Teacher- PHES/JVES  
Kristy Reck – GT Teacher – CCMES/SES/PWLMS  
Rachael Schumann – Parent-MES  
Teresa Chamness – Parent-PHES

**District Personnel:** Brandon Swain, Director of Education Services – Area 4

**Call to Order**

Mr. Swain called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

A flexible agenda was adopted by consensus of those committee members in attendance.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Approval of minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting**

The minutes of December 7, 2015 were approved; changes made were Teresa Chamness is a parent from PHES, not JVES.

**Report on GT Staff Meeting held on November 25, 2015**

Mr. Swain shared an overview of what was discussed at the GT teacher staff meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Entering new students into the program will be done through the District Office
- Possibly changing the enrollment form – this will be on hold until our new student program is implemented in the 2016-17 school year
- Notification letters will be mailed out rather than sent home in peechees
- Progress reports – working on making changes to these. This will be discussed further at next GT teacher meeting
- Discussed the middle school GT program. GT possibly being a part of the elective wheel
- Issues with the Legos software; needing more access for students on this program. There is cost issues involved in the purchasing of licenses.
- Monies received by the State to implement a GT counselor at the secondary level

## **Update on SB518 – Support for Under Achieving GT students Grades 7-12**

Mr. Swain stated that a job description was created for the GT counselor position and it has been posted on the District website. This is an 80% position. This individual would be in contact those students that were previously in the GT program at the elementary level and are now in middle and high schools. This individual would be support to the underachieving students. At this point no one has applied for the position. The preferable experience would be a counseling background and some experience with gifted and talented students.

### **School Psychologist Testing of students near the 94 percentile after taking the CoGAT**

A number of students missed qualifying for the GT program by a slim margin this past fall. Mr. Swain met with the Director of Special Services to request the school psychologists to administer an additional assessment to those students that received a score in the 94%ile range. We have found that additional students were able to qualify through this additional assessment. Mr. Swain would like to continue having the psychologists do this testing, as it is worthwhile to find a few more students that qualify for the program. Ms. Reck stated that because the NNAT and CoGAT are time tests there are those students that get every answer correct, but are not able to complete the test because of their slow processing speed. By administering an assessment such as the WISC, that is not a timed assessment, they are able to complete the test and qualify for the program. The psychologist test is a one on one assessment which includes writing, receptive, expressive, visual and auditory. Basically, an IQ test that covers all facets of how the brain thinks, receives and gives information. Currently, the Administrative Regulation is open to have flexibility in regards to the type of test given, but the NRS states that we must use a normed test to qualify students and that the bar cannot be set above 98%, it can be set below that. Our District requires a 95%ile to qualify..

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were offered.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Margaret Guzman  
Douglas County School District  
Education Services; Area 4