

Carol Lewis, President, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:36PM at the LWSD Resource Center. Board members present included Carol Lewis, Jaya Ramesh, Cathy Webb, Jeff Longcore, Elizabeth Walkey, Alice O'Brien, Gayle Shimokura, Yvonne Atkinson, Anhaita Jamula, Galeeb Kachra, Anusha Rao, and Pronita Mehrotra.

Approximately 50 others were in attendance.

Announcements

- “Putting Together the Puzzle of the Gifted Family,” workshop being presented on 10/8/2016. By Gloria Sandford and Anne van Roden, experts in working with gifted families.
- Grants update. Grants update (\$9600 this August) and pending Grants requests (\$5700) given out in this year. Program is growing.
 - Application grants in total were \$6000. Already have \$6000 before school started.
 - Members asked to join GEAC. Can be done online through the GEAC website or through paper forms.

Jaya Ramesh, President Elect – Adjusting to Quest: A parent’s Perspective

Jaya is a 2nd year parent in the full time Quest Program, and had the following tips to share about children in the program.

- Expect fatigue in children. They are amongst highly achieving class mates.
- Pack non-perishable healthy snacks in the car for “on the go” needs.
- Expect kids to feel over-stimulated. They are around peers that are challenging them.
- Expect more emotions – more challenging; sensitivities may seem exaggerated.
- No more the smartest kid in class
- “Imposter syndrome” -- do I belong here?
- Socially, they may find this to be better than a Gen Ed class because they feel like they “fit in.”
- Any of these above changes can be expected.

Management of issues should be escalated via below process.

- Speak with your child first.
- If not resolved, then speak with your Teacher
- If not resolved, then speak with your School / Principal / Counselor
- If not resolved, then speak with your Heather Sanchez, Director of Quest.

Heather Sanchez, Director of Accelerated Programs – Highly Capable Programs (HCP) updates

Heather Sanchez, Director of Accelerated Programs, Choice, Innovation in LWSD

- Plans to be present for each GEAC meeting, at beginning.
- Discussed Mission, Vision, Values at LWSD.

- Strategic Goals
 - Academic Success for each student.
 - 4 decisions to guide decision making:
 - What do we expect students to learn?
 - How to measure that the student has learned it?
 - How do we respond when students do not learn it?
 - How will we respond when some students already know it?

- HCP Staff Introduced:
 - Heather Sanchez's scope of role discussed, and how it differs from previous Director of Accelerated Programs, Dan Phelan.
 - Diane Durant, HCP Supervisor
 - Suzanne Hurd, Admin Secretary
 - Britt Galen, Psychologist

- Numbers:
 - 1294 highly capable students served.
 - Quest is now 25% larger than year before.
 - 2152 or 7.7% of total student population is currently identified as HC.
 - As of June, over ½ of our students scored at an Advanced Level on state tests.

- Consolidated Program Review (CPR) in the Spring of 2016 from the Office of Superintendent (OSPI), LWSD updated identification process for 2016-2017 school year. Recommendations were made –
 - Updated matrix made available on 9/6/2016.
 - Will allow for more diverse profile in their domains of learning.
 - Any applications beyond Sept 6, 2016 will be evaluated with the new criteria.
 - Why changes? Will review changes in October 2016 at info sessions.
 - If a pull out Quest child retests and does worse on testing, they do not lose their HC/QUEST placement.
 - The placement is an identifier that follows the child throughout the course of their education.

Teachers- Quest Program Overview

Amy Holliday (Full time Quest)

- Every teacher has a team - made to streamline practice
- All classes are multi-age
- Theme this year across the district is "Exploration."
- Content: Reading, Writing, Math, at least 1 grade above.
- Science / Social Science – not necessarily accelerated.
- Math curriculum – real world application around math
- Group Projects and problem based learning (real world problems)
- Preparation for Middle School

- Long Term Project Management – book reports or research reports
- Focus on Research – by navigating through technology.
- Integrate with Gen Ed classes as well, so they feel part of the school.
- Included in music program, PE, etc.

How to help as a parent of a gifted child?

- Check their planners regularly, to see if child is keeping up.
- Communicate with teacher regularly.
- Participate and share with class.

Yon Ho, (Pull out Quest Teacher at Rose Hill)

Pull out Quest is different. Enrichment programs, once per week.

Thematic units. 4 year curriculum that rotates each year. Theme this year is “Design.”

- Creative thinking – 4 components: fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration.
- Stay tuned for more information during Curriculum Night.
- Other specialist needs (PE, Music, etc) with home school and not the Quest school.

Meghan Palmer (Middle School Quest Teacher, 7th Grade Science at Evergreen MS)

Asked for feedback from her middle school class on general advice for parents.

- Set individual goals
- **Always write in and refer to agenda.**
- Play sports and stay social.
- Get contact info for people who share the same classes as you.
- More focused on skills and less on academics.
- This is hard! Support your kids.

Final Thoughts:

- **Austina De Bonte**, President of the Northwest Gifted Child Association, will present the eye-opening and informative “**What Parents Need to Know about Smart Kids.**”
- Communication Tool on website: "Let's Talk" allows you to submit a question on the LWSD website. A person in the organization will respond to the inquiry.
- Question and Answer session conducted on individual basis with Quest staff and GEAC board members

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50PM.