

CAC CURRICULUM MEETING

MINUTES OF 12.15.15

ATTENDANCE: Committee Members Lisa K. Hopp, Ian Horn, Julie Winterhalder, Mary VanSlyck, Klaudia Tomlin; Trisha Shrode (Staff Liason)

GUESTS: April Wells, Coordinator Gifted, Academies, AP & World Languages, Dr Terri Lozier, Asst Superintendent for Secondary Schools Instruction and Equity;

Call to order: 7:07 pm by Lisa Hopp, Co-Chair

Minutes of 11.17.15 were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Mary VanSlyck, second by Julie Winterhalder. Minutes approved.

District U-46 Gifted Program

April Wells, Coordinator of U-46 Gifted Programs presented an overview of U-46 offerings and updates on recent changes to the program.

- *“The District defines gifted students as those who perform or show the potential to perform, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with students their comparable age, experience or environment.*

“These students exhibit high performance capacity in intellectual ability, creativity, and/or a specific academic field.

Gifted students are identified in all racial, ethnic, or disability groups or within any socio-economic stratum. They require specialized instruction, services, and or program in order to maximize their academic, social and emotional pursuits.”

Much time was spent discussing this definition of “Gifted” student. A common misconception is that gifted student = A+ student, and that is not always the case. There are many reasons a gifted student may not be a high achieving student – boredom, lack of challenge, even social/emotional things happening with peers in classroom. Academic achievement cannot be the only factor in identifying these students.

- the State of Illinois does not provide any funding for gifted programming

- the SWAS and SET SWAS (for English language learners) programs that many committee members are familiar with are being phased out. (There are SWAS 6th graders, currently). Some of the new initiatives in identifying students and providing a Dual Language program specifically adhere to criteria set forth in the settlement of the District’s 2005 discrimination lawsuit.

- **AIM** (“Access to Inquiry and Meaning”) is a “talent development” program for 2 & 3rd graders. It is a program that provides enrichment opportunities to students that might not have any similar

opportunities elsewhere. Direct services (with a specifically assigned staff member) are provided to entire 2 & 3 grade classes at 15 locations, schools that are historically underrepresented in the gifted program.

In addition, support (materials and consultation) is provided to any other elementary school that would like to participate.

- **IGNITE** provides 4-6 grade gifted services for students who have been identified. 2-Way Dual Language IGNITE for bilingual, bi-literate students is available as well. These programs offer more in depth instruction in the core academic classes (math science literacy & social studies). Goal is not accelerated instruction (grades ahead) but more in depth. For example, instead of reading textbook about Declaration of Independence, students would look at actual document.

- Students have opportunity to continue with gifted program in middle school. Some may choose to apply and attend Academies after. Committee discussed that Academy enrollment is not always a path gifted students choose. The older student may have other considerations that make their family choose to stay at home school, and all the high schools offer advanced level courses in different areas (AP courses).

- Gifted Screening – ALL 3rd and 6th graders are screened for IGNITE (Universal Screening). Department looks at test scores (MAP & CogAT), teacher observation checklist, principal nomination, AIM information. There is no cap to enrollment. Any student identified as gifted is eligible for services. Parents have an opportunity to appeal decision if they feel their student was not placed appropriately.

- Gifted Curriculum – gifted educators are represented on curricula writing teams and early implementation initiatives. Gifted Students are expected to meet same IL State Standards as all other district students. Standards and curriculum frameworks are the same across district, but gifted classes may have different resources and more supplementary resources chosen by teacher.

- District is developing and providing professional development for teachers and elementary administration. PD is to focus on diversity in gifted ed and bi-lingual and dual language methods and practices.

- District is also developing a Gifted Parent Advisory Group. The focus group will be diverse and provide feedback on gifted initiatives. Care must be taken that the goals and philosophy of the parent group meet the criteria of the lawsuit agreement. It is hoped a call to committee will go out to gifted families mid-January 2016.

DISCUSSION -

- Committee members asked about the fee assessed to gifted students (\$150.00) and that will be followed up on

- Committee asked about IGNITE letters and CogAT results – they are to be mailed January 18, 2016.
- Committee acknowledged that there are many types of learners, and many areas of study that a child may be gifted. ie. music, art, mechanical hands on, etc....
- Discussion then led to the different opportunities offered to all high school students – art, music, and a wide array of Advanced Placement courses. Committee requested that next month’s meeting include an overview of AP courses.

MEETING SCHEDULE -

Next meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2016 (April Wells will be invited back to discuss AP courses)
Committee discussed meetings for rest of year. February will be update on Science implementation; committee will begin work on 2015-2016 Final Report in March to finalize and approve in April. 2015-2016 Final Report goes to Executive Committee and General Membership in May.

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

Adjourn – Motion by Mary VanSlyck, second by Julie Winterhalder. Motion passed.

2015-2016 AIM, IGNITE, and SWAS Sites:

AIM

Century Oaks

Channing

Creekside

Garfield

Gifford

Glenbrook

Heritage

Highland

Hillcrest

Huff

Lords Park

Lowrie

O'Neal

Parkwood

Washington

** Two additional schools, Centennial & Wayne have consultant-based services

IGNITE

Clinton

Creekside

Glenbrook

Horizon

O'Neal *

Sunnydale

Sycamore Trails

* Two-way Dual Language site

MIDDLE SCHOOL SWAS

Kenyon Woods

Kimball

Larsen

Eastview

Teft