

MINUTES
Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting
June 13, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Springfield Office
100 North First Street
3rd Floor, V-Tel Room
Springfield, Illinois

Chicago Office
100 West Randolph, Suite 300
14th Floor, V-Tel Room
Chicago, Illinois

10:15 A.M.
WELCOME &
ATTENDANCE

Ms. Laura Beltchenko introduced new council member Rob Dorman from Collinsville to the other council members. All Council members were present along with Marci Johnson.

Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Chicago

Ms. Laura Beltchenko, Chairperson
Mr. Terry Mohaupt
Ms. Sally Thomson
Dr. Sally Walker
Ms. Diane Beedy (*Joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.*)

Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Springfield

Mr. Rob Dorman
Ms. Diana Rea

Others Present in Springfield

Ms. Marci Johnson

APPROVAL OF
THE MINUTES

Rob Dorman moved that the Gifted Advisory Council hereby approves the minutes for the November 19, 2013 meeting. Diana Rea seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

OPEN PUBLIC
COMMENT

The following people provided public comment:

Susan Rhodes, Illinois Association of Gifted Children requested an extension on the gifted endorsement since the test needs to be taken by February 1, 2015 and the GES is not in a state where people can access the testing. She wanted to know how the money requested for GES revisions would be spent. Ms. Rhodes also commented that she would like the Student Growth Model to measure student growth individually.

Christine Teichman, Teacher at Iles School, School District #186 stated that she attended the meeting today in hopes of becoming more informed on the gifted endorsement testing procedures and the Student Growth Model testing outcomes.

Michelle Ryan, Parent of two gifted children in School District #186 and past President of the Parent Teachers Organization at Iles School wanted the Gifted Advisory Council members to be aware that gifted parents in the community do support the endorsement process and are looking forward to their teachers having the opportunity to obtain the endorsement.

Kenyatta Revelle, Principal of Iles School in District #186; the only gifted magnet school which services student's grade 1-8 commented that she has concerns over the communication of the gifted endorsement. Ms. Revelle said she would

like to see more time and information given to the teachers that might be able to qualify for the gifted endorsement. She also wants to make sure that her school will not be penalized because of the Student Growth Models.

**DISCUSSION &
DISAGGREGATI
ON OF DATA
FROM THE
GIFTED
EDUCATION
SURVEY**

Ms. Beltchenko announced that about a year ago the Gifted Education Survey was sent out to the school districts to help determine the state of gifted education in Illinois. The questions on the survey were created by the members of the Gifted Advisory Council and the survey results were now completed and ready for their review. Each advisory council member was given a draft copy of the Gifted Education Survey results, which was followed by a discussion by the council. Topics of discussion included:

- The loss of funding for gifted education
- Ways in which to make parents/communities aware that a school has a gifted education plan.
- Location/Demographics on what areas provide gifted education
- How the Gifted Education Survey will be further used
- Creating a summary (one pager) of the survey that can be shared with the 863 Illinois Public School Districts to create a level of awareness. The possibility of putting the summary (one pager) in the Superintendent's Bulletin.
- A Recommendation for a two pager instead of a one pager; one page would summarize the gifted education teacher endorsement and the other page would be on guidance to the field on gifted education.
- Ideas, resources and tools that districts can offer to gifted students without funding.
- How we will differentiate gifted education in the era of Common Core Standards.
- Did the districts that dropped their gifted education programs do so because of the lack of funding?
- Are districts aware that their Title 1 and Title II funds can be used for gifted education, if the circumstances fit their needs?
- Not all school districts accept Title I funds even if they qualify.
- What schools in the district receive Title I funds

**DISCUSSION
STATUS OF
GIFTED
EDUCATION
SEMINAR (GES)**

Marci Johnson informed the Gifted Advisory Council members that we did not get the funding requested in the budget for gifted education. Marci noted that we do have a small amount of money which can be used to do some of the updates to the database. Diane Beedy stated that data base is running but it does have a few issues that will have to be worked out. Because of limited funds the Gifted Advisory Council will have to decide on what the contents of the data base should be and how much access to the data base will be available.

Ms. Beedy and Ms. Johnson agreed to meet next week to discuss the Gifted Education Seminar Database System and to develop away to verify what participates have completed the seminar.

**EDUCATOR
TESTING DATES
FOR THE GIFTED
EDUCATION
ENDORSEMENT**

Diane Beedy stated that the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement will be coming out next week and those who need to be grandfathered in must have it done by February 1, 2015. Ms. Beedy said she is working with Diane Wolf of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) to set up training for July and August in each part of the state.

Ms. Beedy updated the Gifted Advisory Council on what the training will include:

- The training consists of 45 hours of training and may take a teacher

anywhere from six days to two months to complete, depending on which type of training they choose.

- The training gives a teacher 45 CPDUs or 4 hours of credit from the two universities that offer the training.
- The training is open to any teachers, educators, administrator or parents.
- The training is designed for a classroom teacher to be able to instruct students in their own classroom.
- The training includes an overview, perspectives on gifted students, information on identifying gifted students, 21 hours of differentiation, 2 hours of models of curriculum and a closing.
- The training can be done in a classroom with a teacher or self-directed off a flash drive on your own. Every course is the same and everyone will receive the same training. The training contains two books.
- You can get the training from your Regional Office of Education. The training fee is anywhere \$250.00 to \$465.00 depending on your Regional Office of Education. Those wishing to take the training will need to contact their local Regional Office of Education.

**RECESS/
RECONVENE**

Ms. Beltchenko announced that the Gifted Advisory Council members would take a short recess at 11:34 a.m. so that the members could get lunch. The Gifted Advisory Council members returned at 12:00 p.m. and worked through their lunch while they continued with the meeting's agenda.

**UPDATE OF
STUDENT
LEARNING
OBJECTIVES
FOR GIFTED
(CONTINUATION OF
MORNING AGENDA)**

Diana Zaleski from ISBE Student Assessment Division updated the advisory members on the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) template. The template when completed will include questions and statements that guide teachers and evaluators throughout the process of measuring student growth for the purpose of performance evaluation. Diana stated that they have collected feedback from a variety of teacher associations and stakeholders and they are now in the process of updating the SLO template. They also held a two-day workshop along with ISU on Student Learning that allowed them to get some very good feedback from Early Childhood Educators on the template. The process will be ongoing as feedback continues to come back in.

Ms. Zaleski reviewed with the Advisory Council Members a copy of the Guidebook on Student Learning Objective Process which is available in draft format on the Student Assessment Website: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/htmls/balanced-asmt.htm>

Ms. Zaleski noted that the SLO process will evaluate individual student growth, which will make it easier to see the growth of gifted students. They will also be adding extension pieces to the guidebook to include special education, gifted and the populations that need more guidance.

Ms. Zaleski asked that the Gifted Advisory Council members please take a minute to review the guidebook and the SLO template and send her any comments or suggestions they may have. dzaleski@isbe.net

**EDUCATOR
TESTING DATES
FOR THE GIFTED
EDUCATOR
ENDORSEMENT**

Linda Jamali from ISBE Education Licensure Division updated the Gifted Advisory Council on the Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement. Beginning September 15, 2014 the National Evaluation Series (NES) Gifted Education Test will be available. This content area test is offered in computer-based format only and is required for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement and the Gifted Education Specialist Endorsement. The cost of the Gifted Education Test is \$95.00 and the tester will have three hours to complete 150 multiple choice questions. The tester will immediately receive unofficial results on the computer on whether they passed the test. There is no limit on how many times the test can be taken but you must wait 30 days before retaking the test

The test will be available through Pearson Centers or authorized third party centers. There are also out of state facilities that will offer the testing and their locations are also listed on the website. The website to learn more about this test and the information Linda shared today is available at: http://www.nestest.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NT312_TestPage.html

Linda noted that Illinois educators will serve on a national standards setting panel for NES Gifted Education Test in June. A recommendation will be made to use the national cut scores for the NES Gifted Education Test.

**FURTHER
DISCUSSION**

The Gifted Advisory Council continued to discuss what they would like to include in their two page summary and a deadline on when they would like it to go out to the field. (*The Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement information has been released to the public. The e-mail link to view this information is:* <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/licensure/pdf/gifted-ed-endorsement.pdf>)

Ms. Beltchenko commented that she and Dr. Walker hosted an Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC) Administrators Breakfast where she shared a blended space that contains a variety of information on gifted education. Ms. Beltchenko said she will make sure all of the Gifted Advisory Council members receive a copy.

**SET NEW
MEETING DATE
AND
AJOURN**

The next Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting will be held on October 15, 2014.

Terry Mohaupt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Diana Rea seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
