

MINUTES
Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting
October 15, 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

10:10 A.M. Ms. Beltchenko called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. All Council members were present along with Marci Johnson.

**WELCOME &
ATTENDANCE**

Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Chicago

Ms. Laura Beltchenko, Chairperson
Dr. Sally Thomson
Dr. Sally Walker
Ms. Diane Beedy

Gifted Advisory Council Members Present in Springfield

Mr. Rob Dorman
Mr. Terry Mohaupt
Ms. Diana Rea

Others Present in Springfield

Ms. Marci Johnson

**APPROVAL OF
THE MINUTES**

Mr. Mohaupt moved that the Illinois Gifted Advisory Council hereby approve the minutes for the June 13, 2014 meeting. Ms. Beedy seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**GIFTED
ENDORSEMENT
UPDATE**

Marci Johnson updated the Gifted Advisory Council members on the issues facing the Gifted Education endorsement. Ms. Johnson stated there is a lot of confusion with the institute piece; people are unable to find documentation, they need to have proof they actually participated in specific course work and completed it. If they have no documentation of proof, we are unable to give them credit. We have no database that backs up this information.

Ms. Johnson and Linda Jamali of Educator Licensure are working on finding out how many people have now registered, taken and completed the test. When Ms. Johnson inquired a few weeks ago, Ms. Jamali told her that only 100 people had registered to take the gifted endorsement test. Ms. Johnson commented that ISBE is offering Gifted Education Seminar Trainer Training and that Ms. Diane Beedy is instructing the training.

**STATE OF GES
(GIFTED
EDUCATION
SEMINAR)**

Ms. Johnson stated that if all of the technology works out as planned, the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) should be up and working by mid-October. Those wanting to apply for the gifted endorsement will be able to do so by going to the Illinois State Board of Education Website at <http://www.isbe.net/ELIS>

Participants that have completed the required specific course work and submitted their gifted institute certificates, as well as the trainer information will be in the ELIS system.

Mr. Mohaupt commented that the website mentions that the National Benchmark passing score is 220, and that Illinois has not yet established a passing score. Ms. Johnson stated that Illinois has deferred to the National Benchmark score of 220 and we will be using 220 as our passing score for the Illinois Gifted Education test.

Ms. Johnson noted that the deadline to apply for the gifted endorsement is before February 1, 2015. If there are any deficiencies the educator will have one year to meet those deficiencies.

Ms. Beltchenko summarized the discussion:

1. Aurora University, Northeastern Illinois University and Roosevelt University are now offering approved course work for the gifted endorsement. All gifted course work being offered at universities must be aligned to the standards or they will not be eligible to be considered an approved program. Ms. Johnson commented that if you go to the ISBE website for Gifted Education under *Resources*, there is a title: "*Illinois University Gifted Programs for Educators*" that will connect you to a list of Illinois institutions with approved gifted education programs. **There is currently no Illinois approved gifted programs.**
2. Illinois has deferred to the National Benchmark passing score of 220 and will be using 220 as our cutoff passing score for Gifted Education endorsement test.
3. By January 31, 2015 teachers need to apply for the gifted endorsement if they wish for GES to be an acceptable program. After February 1, 2015, they will be required to complete an Illinois-approved college course. **At this current time there are no colleges or universities in Illinois that have requested an approved program.**

Ms. Beltchenko inquired if there is any way we could send a letter from ISBE to higher education institutions encouraging them to offer an approved gifted endorsement program.

Ms. Johnson recommended that if you want Illinois institutions to offer approved gifted courses, to go to your preferred university and ask that they apply to offer an approved gifted endorsement program. The public demand for more gifted programs is what will make universities offer them. Currently there are no universities offering ISBE approved gifted programs.

Ms. Johnson explained that teachers are not required to get the gifted endorsement to keep their jobs. At this time, it is not mandatory and up to the teachers on whether they want it or not. Districts could require that their teachers have the gifted endorsement, but at this point it is up to the districts and individual teachers if they want to have the endorsement. Some districts are encouraging teachers to get the gifted endorsement.

**RECESS/
RECONVENE**

**WORKING
LUNCH**

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.

**CONTINUATION
OF MORNING
AGENDA**

Mr. Dorman asked if Illinois would ever have a Gifted Education Plan for students that are gifted. Ms. Johnson responded that once the Shared Learning Environment initiative is further along, that there would be a better opportunity for a specialized learning plan. Under districts' RtI (Response to Intervention) gifted students can be eligible to receive services.

Ms. Beltchenko asked if the licensure for gifted runs out in five years, how do we go about getting the legislature to assign money for gifted. Ms. Johnson explained that if the Council would like money from the legislature for Gifted Education they are going to have to have a well laid out plan showing exactly where the money would be used.

**GOALS FOR
FUTURE
MEETINGS**

Goals for January 15, 2015 meeting:

- Continue to discuss how funds could be used to make revisions to the GES so that it can be done seamlessly when the funds are no longer available.
- Devise a consistent message to ask for Gifted Education funds and find out who would be best to ask for those funds.
- Use the February 9, 2015 Illinois Association for Gifted Children (IAGC) Annual Conference to make contact with the IAGC membership and find out what kind of professional development they would like to see outside the GES.
- Plan what updates need to take place for a complete revamp of the GES.
- Determine what will be in the Educators Leaders Network (ELN) module from the Illinois Principals Association.
- Determine what items we would like to see on the ISBE website..

**DISCUSSION OF
THE GIFTED
EDUCATION
SURVEY AND
RESOURCE
RECOMMENDA-
TIONS**

During our June 13, 2014 Gifted Advisory Council meeting, Mr. Mohaupt asked if there was any way from our survey could we tell in what counties the gifted programs were located. Ms. Johnson commented that we were able to pull the information that Mr. Mohaupt requested, but to remember that they only include the people that responded to the survey, not the entire state, and that the information is for Gifted Advisory Council use only to determine ways in which the Council can help the districts.

Mr. Dorman recommended that since the survey could not be shared, that they break the survey list down by the following categories for identifying gifted students. The council members agreed to take a category and from the numbered responses in questions #18 and #19 of the survey, determine which category for gifted students' best identifies needs for them. The members agreed to send the information to Marci Johnson/Marsha Moffett before March 2015 for the April 2015 meeting.

Categories for Identifying Needs of Gifted Students

- Identification - Mr. Mohaupt
- Curriculum and Instruction – Ms. Rea
- Program Delivery Model – Ms. Beedy
- Finance - Mr. Dorman

- Evaluation – Dr. Thomson
- Teacher Selection - Ms. Beltchenko
- Professional Development- Dr. Walker

ADJOURN

Mr. Dorman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Thomson seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING
DATE**

The next Illinois Gifted Advisory Council Meeting will be held on January 15, 2015.