

Minutes of GATE Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2015 8:30-10:00a.m.

1) Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Brett Geithman

- Meeting called to order 8:35AM
- Scott Jensen made a motion to approve minutes from the September 25, 2015 meeting. Karen Komatinsky seconded the motion. Minutes approved.
- December 4, 2015 minutes to be taken by Melissa Holcomb. Dr. Geithman to forward minutes to all GATE families.
- Parent introductions.

2) GATE Plan Subcommittee, Dr. Brett Geithman & GATE Plan Subcommittee

- Subcommittee Members
 1. Grand View Scott Jensen scottjensenmb@gmail.com
 2. MBMS Hilary Mahan hilarymahan@me.com
 3. MCHS Ellen Chao echao45@yahoo.com
 4. Pacific Jeri Vick jeri_vick@yahoo.com
 5. Pennekamp Katherine Dugdale kdugdale@perkinscoie.com
 6. Robinson Jeff Yeh jyeh@nylashoes.com
 7. Meadows Roger Spencer roger90266@yahoo.com
 8. Pacific Michele Diamond, Teacher mdiamond@mbusd.org
 9. Grand View Rhonda Steinberg, Principal rsteinberg@mbusd.org
 10. District Office Brett Geithman, Exec. Dir. bgeithman@mbusd.org
 11. MBMS Natalie Herringshaw, Teacher nharringshaw@mbusd.org
- The subcommittee members have met three times this year (10/16, 11/9, 11/12).
 1. Developed GATE surveys for parents and teachers.
 2. Reviewed GATE programs in other districts and states.
 3. Created a timeline for updated plan formulation.
- The Plan Subcommittee feels that it is essential to receive input from all GAC parents.
- A parent asked that minutes from the GAC meetings be posted on the District website and requested that the GATE information on the website be updated so that the website will be a useful tool to parents.
- Dr. Geithman stated that if only one parent in the family is receiving GATE emails, the second parent should email Dr. Geithman and request to be added to the email distribution list.
- A parent voiced concern about not receiving school specific GATE information. Another parent echoed that concern.

3) GATE parent and Teacher Survey Results, Dr. Brett Geithman

- Survey participants
 1. 142 parents responded to the survey (out of 350 gate parents).
 2. 80 teachers responded to the survey (out of 360 teachers)
 3. MBMS had the highest number of parents respond.
 4. MBMS had the highest number of teachers respond.
- Teacher Survey Results
 1. 60% of teachers who responded to the survey are GATE certified. A parent asked if teachers who are not GATE certified were asked why they are not GATE certified. Dr. Geithman reported that they were not asked that question.
 2. The survey asked teachers if they are aware of the GATE students in their classrooms. Nearly 40% of teachers who responded are not aware of the GATE identified students in their classrooms, despite that fact that GATE identified students are flagged in Power School.
 3. Dr. Geithman pointed out that at the high school level, there may not be a perceived need to have GATE students identified.

4. Dr. Geithman feels that it is a district responsibility to make teachers aware of GATE identified students.
 5. Rhonda Steinberg pointed out that while there may be a parent perception that their child is not receiving specialized learning, that there may be nuances in teaching at the classroom level that parents are not aware of.
 6. Parents asked whether or not GATE clustering exists at the Middle School level. Dr. Geithman reported that GATE students are clustered for science courses.
 7. Over 40% of teachers who responded do not discuss GATE, but these results may be skewed as primarily high school teachers responded.
 8. Overall, teachers who responded do not have a high understanding of the district GATE program.
 9. Teachers and parents were pretty much in line with the idea that the GATE program needs improvement. 66% of MBMS teacher respondents marked N/A for rating the GATE program.
 10. Teachers who participated in the survey rated the GATE strategies much higher at each school than the parents did, which leads us to believe that things are happening in the classrooms that parents are not aware of.
 11. 30% of responding teachers reported that they received GATE information from their principals. 38% reported that they never received GATE information.
 12. Teachers felt overwhelmingly (88%) that GATE strategies are great for all students regardless of GATE status. Dr. Geithman feels that a baseline GATE education for all teachers is helpful.
- Parent Survey Results
 1. Parents ranked social interaction with other GATE students and staff awareness of a GATE student's social needs as most important on the survey.
 2. The importance of an academic challenge was ranked of lowest importance.
 3. Most parents felt that they had a good understanding of the district GATE program.
 4. Parents feel that most GATE information comes from the district rather than their school.
 5. Parents feel that the process of identifying GATE students is working. Teachers, for the most part, do not. Other districts have criteria in addition to the OLSAT test to identify gifted and talented students (visual, etc.), our district does not. Some districts rely heavily on teacher recommendation.

4) Breakout Discussions, Group

Parents broke into groups to discuss survey data. Each parent in attendance was asked to vote for the three focus areas (8 options) that they felt would maximize the success of GATE students. These areas are listed below with the first three bolded options receiving the most votes.

- 1. Personalized Goals for GATE students**
- 2. GATE Awareness for teachers (social and academic)**
- 3. GATE Fieldtrips/Afterschool Programs**
4. GATE for all (goal: training in GATE strategies for all teachers k-12)
5. GATE Identification
6. Communication between schools/district and parents
7. Teacher knowledge of GATE students in classes
8. GATE parent training

5) Meeting adjourned 10:18.