



Broward County Public Schools
Gifted Advisory Council- General Meeting
Plantation High School
February 12, 2024, 7:00pm

Email: BrowardcountyGAC@gmail.com **Website:** <http://giftedadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com/>

Chair: Karla Figueroa, Vice Chair: Allan Bushkin, Recording Secretary: Vacant,
Corresponding Secretary: Diego Britto, Parliamentarian: Cynthia Dominique

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order- 7:02 pm
- B. Introductions of Gifted Advisory volunteer board and Gifted School Board employees
- C. Meeting Etiquette- QR codes on the bottom of agenda for GAC website and Facebook. We will send out information related to Gifted Students. Email is also at the top of the agenda if you have any questions.
- D. Approval of November, December, & January Minutes-
 - November Minutes- no corrections of minutes- all in favor of approving minutes, passes unanimously*
 - December Minutes- no corrections of minutes- all in favor of approving minutes, passes unanimously*
 - January Minutes- no corrections of minutes- all in favor of approving minutes, passes unanimously*
- E. Elections: Recording Secretary-

Allan Buskin ran election, going over duties of the Recording Secretary and taken nominations from the floor. *Karla Figueroa nominated Jessica Benner (accepted nomination). No other nominations, Jessica Benner voted Recording Secretary unanimously.*
- F. Chair Report- Karla Figueroa gave the following updates:
 - 1. A. District Updates- The school calendar was approved and school for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on August 12th for students, the actual calendar has not been put out. June 3rd is the last day of school. Thanksgiving Break will be one week, Winter break is December 23rd-January 3rd and Spring Break is March 24th-28th. Early release days are tentative with the only one certain is February 14th for a day of service.
 - B. Discipline Summit will be happening for anyone to join, this Saturday the 17th location TBD and following Saturday the 24th to help develop the discipline matrix.

You can help be a part of developing the new matrix. This is to replace the school to prison pipeline.

C. The last Redefining Schools Townhall meetings remaining are Thursday 15th at JP Taravella and also Flanagan HS next Thursday. These meetings are also virtual There are 2 questions for you to answer through a QR code.

D. Email was sent regarding Gifted Summer Camps. We passed out a flyer. We encourage you to register as the deadlines are the end of March and they fill out fast. The flyer has all the dates and other information you need. They are specific grade levels and all have different prices and criteria.

2. Technology Advisory Rep (meets 2nd Mon of month 2:30pm, virtual)- Allan Bushkin gave update. This month was FOCUS student information system. 50% user acceptance pass rate. Slightly concerning note was there was a breach in the Raptor system by a reporter. There was no notification sent out as no personal identification information was found. For the school board meetings they are looking for a new vendor for their meeting notes so you can find information more easily when searching notes. Also, transcription was supposed to be part of their software and it is not. So there are no transcriptions currently of the school board meetings. District is also looking at new internet service provider. They are still in the RFP phase for that. They are looking at a vendor called Crown Castle to replace Comcast. Looking for higher availability, bigger return on investment and make sure that all of the bandwidth is available for all the students and staff at all times.
3. Legislative Updates- You can find all of the updates on the Broward Schools website by searching for "Legislative Updates". Senate Bill 7004 is changing the criteria for 3rd grade promotion meaning that if a parent feels that the child can move up to 4th grade without meeting the ELA promotion criteria, the parent will have the right to do so with the school not being able to hold them back. Another legislation regarding municipalities, if a school district decides on closing a school, the municipalities will have the right to turn that school into a city charter school. So we need to look at this with what is currently going on in the district currently with the redefining school. There are many different things going on right now regarding legislation, you can sign up on the website to get a newsletter. The house is currently in session so there will be lots of updates upcoming that Karla will share.

G. Innovative Learning Department Updates

1. Gifted Parent Canvas Course- Scholarship information, gifted summer camp information, school gifted number of student numbers, and any information the Innovative Learning Department has to share, this is where it will be posted. They have been and will continue to updated on the Gifted Parent Canvas Course. The Gifted Procedural Guide is also available on this Canvas Course.

H. Announcements

1. Gifted Summer Camps- applications are now open for the 3 gifted summer camps- Plantation H.S, Pompano Beach H.S and Western H.S. Each school is offering

different weeks and different age groups. Please see their website and application for more information.

I. Old Business

1. Policy & Bylaws- GAC passed our policy and bylaws in November. They are in the school boards hands for their approval at this point. Once this is done we will share and post on the website. If the Board requires any changes then the committee will have to make those changes and vote on it again.

J. New Business

1. Gifted Parent Canvas Course- You will find our contact information, information and the form to be filled out for nominating an Outstanding Gifted Teacher of the Year, the information for Gifted Summer Camps (contact the schools for individual information on the camps, we do not have that specific information) and information about scholarships has been updated as we learn about more scholarships.

Q- What is unique about gifted summer camps vs. regular summer camps?

A- Donna DeMarco (Plantation H.S)-They are all gifted students and it is great to see them all come together, counselors are gifted HS students, they try to reach all aspects of the gifted children. HS volunteers are from the school the camp is being held. They do Robotics, Chess, Artistic and try to reach all aspects of giftedness.

Q- For the High School students that need volunteer hours, do you take those kids to work at the camps?

A- They are students from within the school and they have to apply and be trained prior to the camp.

2. Presentation: Gifted Procedure Guide

Gifted Procedure Guide presented by Zuzel Rodriguez. Please see PowerPoint presentation which will be available on the GAC website for more information. The document is 18 pages. The Gifted Procedural Guide has not been updated for a while as far as procedures, some language has been updated before covid, but no major updates. This guide is given to all Principals at every school at the beginning of every school year and they sign a document saying they know the information in the guide and they will follow the information. It does also go to charter schools, however they can do things differently because they have to follow the state policies and not Broward county policies. Example, the state says EP's only need to be updated every 4 years while Broward County says every 2 years, so a charter school can follow the state if they want to. Policy 4130 is the Gifted Policy and it states that all schools must chose a district approved gifted model.

Questions and Answers from Presentation:

Q- Who is the initiator of the EP matriculation meeting?

A- The current schools ESE coordinator because the other school probably doesn't know you are coming.

Q- If you are going to a school choice and not your boundary school, can the matriculation meeting be made prior to registering at the new school?

A- You need to be registered at the new school before you can have the meeting because some people accept the seat at that school and then never go to that school and they need to know that's the school your child will definitely be going to.

Q- About when should the matriculation meeting be happening?

A- Every school is different, but it is almost always in the spring, March, April May. It has to be done before the end of the school year. Depends how many students and how many meetings need to be had.

Q- If the EP is made every 2 years, how does the previous teacher know the projection for my child for the following year?

A- The students all follow the same type of progression so they should know the courses the student will be taking and be able to write goals related to those courses. You can always call for an interim EP meeting if you feel the goals aren't what your student needs.

Q- Where do you get the EP progress updates?

A- EdPlan Connect every time a report card comes out. Whatever email you have registered with the school is where you should get a notification for EdPlan. FOCUS will be taking over these progress reports for EP's starting next school year. You as a parent will get notification to sign up for this new program once it is available.

Q- IF we go homeschool and then come back to the district what happens?

A- When you come back to the district, you will have to have a new meeting to update the EP. The student is still gifted eligible just the EP will be out of date so that will have to be updated. We do not as a district provide services when a child is homeschooled or in private school.

Q- If you wanted your child to do a course on virtual school is that considered homeschool?

A- No. If you go through Broward Virtual School you are still a Broward School student. If you go through Florida Virtual School than that is a different school system. They will usually transfer those credits, but if you withdraw all together to go homeschool or private or FLVS full time than you are no longer BCPS. We do have Broward Virtual that is BCPS and you stay in the system.

Q- Can my child earn credits through FLVS?

A- Yes, they will have to transfer it.

Q&A session continued

3. Gifted Academy Presentation- Quick presentation on both the Parkway and Plantation Gifted Academies given by Laurie Mallis and Donna DeMarco.

K. Q&A- Gifted Advisories Gifted Teacher of the Year Awards subcommittee will be meeting March 4th virtually and they will be going over nominations. All school ESE coordinators were sent the nomination form to be distributed. Completed nomination forms are due back to GAC email by March 1st. We are looking for volunteers for the committee. Please contact Erin Kirkland to sign up.

Q- When does the gradewide screening for gifted happen?

A- *Right now we are getting a new contract* approved by the board. Typically it is right before spring break for all 2nd grade students in the district, but this year it might happen towards the end of the school year or maybe even beginning of 3rd grade depending on when we get the new contract. You do not have to wait for this screening though, as a parent you can go to your ESE specialist and request the gifted screening.

Q- If we currently hold the gifted academies at Parkway and Plantaiton and the school board is looking into repurposing schools, have there ever been a thought or suggestion of combining both the 3-8 and highs school programs together?

A- They are just starting these conversations. They know these programs are at those schools. We as innovative learning are not part of those conversations. Karla said she made that suggestion to Dr. Licata during a meeting with him last week. He was invited tonight, but couldn't come, hopefully he will be at our meeting next month. Suggest you go to the redefining meetings and make that suggestion to them.

Motion to extend the meeting by 5 minutes 1st Erin Kirkland, 2nd Lucille Gavin

More discussion held on gifted academies in Orlando and other areas and how our gifted academy compares to these other gifted academies. A motion would like to be made. Allan Bushkin asked for motion to be tabled until the next meeting as it is very important and would need more than a few minutes of discussion and it would need to be voted on with quorum. Karla asked that anyone who has topics of interest or things that would like to be discussed could be emailed to her so they can be added to the agenda so we can make sure to discuss as these things are important. Motion is tabled with no on against.

L. Adjourn- *Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:33pm*

Facebook:



Website:

