



Monday, October 9, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM ET (7:00PM-8:30PM)

Meeting location: Eagle Point Elementary 100 Indian Trace Weston, Florida 33326

Gifted Advisory Council Membership	
Chair	TBD
Members	Alan Bushkin, Erin Kirkland, Juan Del Sol, Diego Britto
Parliamentarian	Cynthia Dominique

Diego Britto- Call meeting to order: 7:07 pm

- Principal of Eagle Point welcome.
- **Approval of the September 11, 2023 GAC meeting minutes-**
Motion to approve- Correction (Karla Figueroa)- Cynthia Dominique is Parliamentarian not Diego Britto 1st by Karla Figueroa by 2nd Cynthia Dominique- Vote was passed unanimously. Minutes approved with correction.
- **College Academy Presentation-** Brenda Michelle ESE Specialist and Admissions Coordinator for the College Academy. Presented and handed out information on the College Academy. It is FREE college for 2 years. The only public HS to give an AA Degree. 10th graders apply December 12th. 11th and 12th graders take college courses for free, free books everything! Call Brenda Michelle and she will give one on one presentations and conversations with parents. They will be having open houses the end of October. Check their website for dates and times. All classes are taken on college campuses fully immersed. Located at Broward College in Davie and Coconut Creek.
- **Nominations and vote for a new GAC Chair and Recording Secretary.**
Cynthia Dominique (Parliamentarian) leading votes. Explanation of what advisories are and the purpose of Gifted Advisory.
Explanation of the duties of a chair and specifically the Chair for Gifted Advisory. The Chair must lead the GAC general meetings and steering meetings, attend District Advisory meetings (or send a representative), give a committee report at the School Board Meetings (or send a representative). They also must communicate with the rest of the board and the District Liaison (Zuzel Rodriguez).



- **Nominations taken from the floor for Chair:**

Cynthia Dominique nominated Karla Figueroa for Chair, Nina Robinson Russel 2nd her nomination. Karla accepted the nomination. No other nominations from the floor. Karla is running unopposed, so she is voted in. **Vote was unanimous. Karla Figueroa is the new Chair of Gifted Advisory Council.**

- **Recording Secretary**

Cynthia Dominique explains the role Recording Secretary. They are responsible for taking all meeting minutes both regular and special meetings, as well as the Steering Committee meetings and shall transcribe them in a timely manner; custodian of all committee reports and correspondence; shall be a member of the Steering Committee

- **Nominations taken from the floor for Recording Secretary:**

Erin Kirkland nominated self. Jeffery Compas 2nd her nomination. No other nominations from the floors. **All in favor, none opposed. Erin Kirkland is the new Recording Secretary.**

- **Vote to approve the policy and bylaws.**

Cynthia Dominique explains the policy and bylaws and proposed changes. By laws- Policy 1070 governs all committee's so gifted policy is being revised to conform with state law and Policy 1070.

Membership- the Gifted Advisory Council shall consist of parents, relatives, guardians, surrogates of students who are gifted, and Broward County School Board Appointees. However, all interested parties are welcome, including school district personnel and students. Discussion on proposed changes for Membership regarding the School Board Appointees. Zuzel Rodriguez stated that in her 8 years, there has never been school board appointees. Proposal to remove them as members so they do not interfere with quorum being met- all in favor of this change to remove school board appointees from membership. Membership term is July 1st until June 30th.

Voting- The chairperson does not get a vote because they need to remain neutral, unless there is a tie, they will be the tiebreaking vote.

Term of membership for the Chair is 4 years elected annually. If 4 years have been served, and 2/3 of the membership chose to override the 4-year term, they can.

Attendance- no requirement for general members, but for the officers 2 consecutive and 3 total absences for steering meeting and general meetings results in loss of that position. An election for that position will be held at the next general meeting and that same officer may rerun for the position. If an officer cannot fulfill their position, they can resign or have 2



absences and they will lose their position. They can be voted back in if the members chose to revote them for their position.

Recall- a board member can be recalled if general membership feels they aren't fulfilling their duties. In the current bylaws we need to Strike out Certified Mail and insert electronic correspondence for the manner in which the recalled member is notified of the recall.

Quorum- 1 officer and 10 parents. Zuzel commented that there have been very few meetings with less than 10 parents. Voting is simple majority of 50 + 1.

Motions- currently we need 2nd meeting to vote for motion. Proposal is to Strike that and change to be only 1 meeting and 1 vote. All were in agreement.

All of these proposals need to be revisited at our next meeting because of current bylaws requiring 2 votes. If you are interested in being on the bylaws subcommittee, please email gac. These subcommittee meetings are held virtually.

- **Old Business-**

Update on motion passed from September 11, 2023 meeting- Motion by Caven Suckram to add information relevant to the gifted children to be added to the GAC website. To add all information pertinent to the gifted program to be added. *See below for update from Zuzel Rodriguez regarding Canvas Course for parents that provides tons of information. GAC will put a link to this Canvas Course on the GAC website.*

- **Reports**

- **District Guidance Department to review Xello** – Xello is the program taking over for Naviance. **College, Career and Life Readiness Team contact information:**

Kerlie Leonce, Team Lead- Kerlie.Leonce@browardschools.com

Fabienne Davis- BRACE Caden Manager, Center Schools-

Fabienne.Pierrelouis@browardschools.com

Yvonne Green, Central Region- Yvonne.Green@browardschools.com

Joshua Hurley, North Region- Joshua.Hurley@browardschools.com

Dr. Nancy Whittaker, Scholarship Manager, South Region-

Nancy.Whittaker@browardschools.com

Introduction to Xello- This is the 1st presentation being given to the public on this new platform.

Presentation of Xello- replacing Naviance- Dr. Nancy Whittaker- Scholarship Manager, South Region

A Parent link will go out. Personal information will be transferred, but certain things will not.



Pathways to Possibilities- schools are supposed to take advantage of non-core classes for students to be working on Xello ie. Personality tests etc.

The district is trying to get buy in with Principals etc. to have students using Xello starting at the elementary level. (See PowerPoint presentation for more details)

Questions regarding Xello presentation:

Is the district paying for this or the state?

The state purchased Xello, but Broward County Schools District has purchased additional features.

What would elementary school aged children get from this?

Elementary students can play games exploring different careers, similar to Junior Achievement. For teachers it is a plug and play and all lessons are preloaded. Requires no work on the teacher's part. This is a great opportunity for teachers to use these lessons in their substitute folders. Students can start applying for all scholarships as soon as elementary school.

Do Not let colleges bullying you into taking their scholarships back because they received other scholarships.

Recommendation made by parent: to alert when new scholarships hit the program. Dr. Whittaker will bring this back to the team to try and get that set up. Great idea!

Work hours are allowed as service hours, how can a student show these hours in Xello?

Dr. Whittaker is not sure and will look into. They can track their work hours to be put up under volunteer.

Financial literacy course is now mandated in High School, is this something we can use Xello for and mandating these Xello courses during homeroom?

There needs to be consistency. Possible motion to make this a mandated class possibly for homeroom.

College and career corner- Wednesday nights next meeting is October 11th
Browardschools.com/brace to watch past college and career meetings and for future meetings.

Informational Updates

Technology Update- 2nd Monday of the month 2:30-4:30, Gifted in need a rep. Karla went this week- Final Site what all Broward sites are moving to for websites. Will go to board November and everything will be migrated after approval. Advisories will have their own websites. Motion



made during meeting so advisories have time for training. New students to Broward County Schools, starting in November and moving forward will be registered through Focus. Parent brought concerns of teachers giving substitutes their credentials for Clever and then changing their passwords after because substitutes do not have access to Clever on their own. This is a big concern. Technology Advisory will be looking into this.

Update on motion from last meeting- Diego explained the Board is working on this. As we get links we will add it to the website.

Zuzel Rodriguez presented- website information- parent canvas course is available for parents to access- <https://tinyurl.com/GiftedResourcesforparents>

Gifted parent rep should be at these meetings and should be bringing it back to their schools SAF meetings.

Next meeting is November 13th at Discovery Elementary School.

Motion to Adjourn- 8:28pm Karla Figueroa 2nd Erin Kirkland