

Gifted Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
FCPS Administration Building – Wright Board Room

**March 27, 2023**

**Call to order:** The quarterly meeting of the Frederick County Public Schools Gifted Advisory Committee was held on March 27, 2023 in the Wright Board Room in the FCPS Administration Building. The meeting was convened at 7:01 p.m. by J. Greathouse, Supervisor of Tiered Systems of Supports (GT & EL).

**Members in attendance:**

School	Representative
Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School	J. Fauver
Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School	Absent
Armel Elementary School	Absent
Bass Hoover Elementary School	Absent
Evendale Elementary School	Absent
Frederick County Middle School	Absent
Gainesboro Elementary School	Absent
Greenwood Mill Elementary School	K. Nagy
Indian Hollow Elementary School	K. Frost
James Wood High School	Absent
James Wood Middle School	T. Markwood
Jordan Springs Elementary School	Absent
Middletown Elementary School	M. Davis
Millbrook High School	T. Knight
Orchard View Elementary School	J. Miller
Redbud Run Elementary School	R. Axmacher
Rober E. Aylor Middle School	B. Benson
Sherando High School	Absent
Stonewall Elementary School	Absent
Gifted Resource Teacher Representative	A. Mohr
Gifted Visual Teacher Representative	L. Wade
School Counseling Representative	Absent
Supervisor of Tiered Systems of Supports, GT & EL	J. Greathouse
Director of Middle and Secondary Instructional Services	J. Myers

**Welcome and Introduction: 7:01 pm – J. Greathouse**

**Purpose of the Gifted Advisory Committee:**

Located at the bottom of the agenda.

**Approval of Agenda: B. Benson**

A motion was made by K. Nagy and seconded by T. Knight

**Approval of Minutes: B. Benson**

T. Markwood identified clerical error in the “call to order” section which was edited

Motion to approve minutes was made by M. Davis and seconded by J. Fauver

## **Chair's Report**

No Report

## **Program – Student Panel – Summer and Academic Year Governor's School Opportunities**

J. Greathouse presented information: Governor's School programs are tuition free, are a consortium made up of at least three different school districts, the programs are connected to a college or university, and there is an application process consisting of an essay, teacher recommendations, and evaluation of data.

The Governors school programs are the Blue Ridge Environmental Governor's school (BREGS), Performing and Visual Arts Northwest (PAVAN), Summer Residential Governor's School (SRsGS), and Mountain Vista Governor's School (MVGS). Each takes place during the summer months except for MVGS which occurs during the academic year.

- BREGS students, Braylon and Jed, shared about experiences and learning activities such as the different spheres that can be studied, experiential learning that occurs on field trips, opportunities to be in leadership such as by interning, and participation in hands-on projects. Jed shared that sometimes the learning experiences can help students expand their perspective such as considering the global impact of human behavior. Braylon shared that one of the main learning themes is to consider what kind of impact people have on the environment and what kind of impact the environment has on people.
- PAVAN includes programming for guitar, theater, voice, and visual arts. Students, Julia and Cora, shared about how much they enjoyed expanding their experience in visual and choral arts as well as building community with other students with like interests. They both benefited by working with different instructors and had opportunities to be challenged and try new things. Cora especially appreciated the family atmosphere and explained that there is a personal project that each student is able to present at the end of the program. Julia shared how the challenging environment caused her to have growth in her vocal endurance and also how she appreciated the opportunity to learn about phonetics in choral music.
- SRsGS offers academic programming in different areas such as mathematics, humanities, performing arts, world languages, and mentorships in engineering, marine science and medicine and health sciences.
- Rosemary shared about her time spent at Radford University studying the arts and how she participated in different classes on topics such as photography, watercolor, 3D. She shared how she enjoyed the classes and also that the community was meaningful and she enjoyed the opportunity to make new relationships. Jack reflected on his time at Radford University in the Humanities program. He explained how much he enjoyed the college level learning environment as well as forming relationships that he still maintains. He shares how it was beneficial to be exposed to the students in other programs such as the arts and how it inspired him to audition for chorus when he went back to his home high school.
- Matthew has been participating in learning opportunities at the Mountain Vista Governor's School since he was in 3rd grade when he joined the robotics program there on Wednesdays. He explained how he has "nothing but praise" for the program that takes place at Laurel Ridge Community College. His classes are mostly science and technology focused such as chemistry, physics, and higher level math courses. He shared about the "fun day" on Wednesdays where they "deviate from the rigorous curriculum" to explore other domains.

## **Reports from Members/Representatives Groups:**

### Gifted Academic - Ms. Mohr

#### Elementary

- The elementary students are finishing their invention unit and preparing to share their work with families by the end of April.

- GRTs received screening data to begin teacher discussions and evaluations.

### Middle

- PRISMS students are analyzing their research data and gearing up to start the research papers in preparation for Showcase on May 24 at Robert E. Aylor Middle School.
- One of the first-place winners in the Regional Science Fair at James Madison University has taken PRISMS twice and stated her project was strong because of the data generation and analysis she learned in PRISMS.
- STAR (Student Thinking and Research) is a pilot program at JWMS offered to 6th-grade GEMS students to introduce research strategies - it could be considered a PRISMS-Lite class: the basics of making notes, citing sources, and generating/analyzing data. One student in particular from last year's STAR class had moved to another school and produced a strong PRISMS research project while others in the class struggled a bit - he said it was because he was prepared

### High School

- The high school GRT, AJ Van Zandt, has started to have get-togethers once a quarter for students in the high school gifted academic program.
- On March 15, James Wood HS gifted students from grades 9 to 12 gathered for enrichment activities. They built towers with pasta and marshmallows, designing for height. The activity will be repeated in the next few weeks at Millbrook and Sherando HSs. They also played Chameleon - a game where one player tries to convince others that they know something they actually don't.
- There will be a motivational speaker visiting with all 9th- to 12th-grade GAC students in the fourth quarter of this school year.
- The number of students in the 2023-24 Gifted Independent Study increased by 90%.

### Governor's Schools - Dr. Greathouse

- BREGS
  - 15 students accepted to attend
  - 3 interns accepted
  - Director is a FCPS teacher
    - Two instructors are FCPS teachers
- PAVAN
  - Decision letters go out April 15, 2023
- Summer Residential Governor's School (SRsGS)
  - Students receive status in mid-April 2023
- MVGS
  - 32 applicants for 14 seats (plus some at-large seats)
  - FCPS selection committee meets on April 4, 2023

### Counselors - Ms. Wilbourne

#### **High School Testing**

- SOL
  - 11th graders take the Reading SOL
  - Writing SOL given in March
  - All other tests are in May

- Algebra I, Biology and World History tests are the main SOL's.
- **Advanced Placement**
  - All testing is in May
- **Testing Sites**
  - Millbrook is a test center for both the SAT and ACT and this is ongoing.
  - JWHS is a test center for SAT and this is ongoing.
  - Sherando is not a test site.

### **Middle School Testing**

- **SOL**
  - Writing will be in March (3 dates this year: essay, multiple choice, and a new field test)
  - Reading and Math for 6th and 7th grades
  - Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies for 8th grade
- **iReady/iStation**
  - Screeners - ongoing

### **Elementary School Testing**

- **SOL**
  - Will occur in May

### **All Grade Levels: ELL testing**

- Completed annually once a year. This year is January 17th through March 17th.

### **Other:**

### **Math Placement:**

- Appropriate staff will be looking at all 5 data points (SOL scores, Fall SGA, Winter SGA, iReady, and grades) once school has finished to determine math placements. If parents/guardians wish for their child to take a math placement test they may contact their school counselor for additional information and to schedule an appointment. Tests are usually taken in July.

### **Virtual Virginia:**

- Frederick County partners with Virtual Virginia and therefore if you are interested in this route you would need to enroll through Frederick County Schools. Classes begin either June 6th or June 20th. This is an opportunity for students to take classes online.

### Gifted Visual Art - Ms. Wade

Students are currently being evaluated for gifted art eligibility.

### Administrator - Dr. Myers

- Budget planning and decision making is ongoing
- She recommends attending one of the listening sessions with the new superintendent
- Classes have been selected by students for next year, these are being put in the system, this information is assisting administrators with assessing staffing needs.
- Middle school summer academy will be offered again this year – July 10 to 27 at Aylor – for rising 6-8 – usually 150 students - programming will center around the 17 sustainable UN goals – students will choose a project to work on – teachers will incorporate students' learning needs.
- Dr. Myers is attending a conference with UN soon to learn about the 2030 goals.

**Unfinished Business:**

Dr. Greathouse shared that this committee, over the last 2 years took a “deep dive” into the *Local Plan* – she will be working on taking that plan to the school board this summer for 2023-2029 – she will begin writing at the end of April – she asks that members let her know by end of April of any feedback regarding the plan

**New Business:**

None

**Announcements:**

School Board Art Showcase – May 10, 2023, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

PRISMS Showcase – Friday May 24, 2024 (note: date change) at Robert E. Aylor Middle School

GIS Showcases – by invitation only – May 2023

**Public Comment:**

None

**Next Meeting:**

May 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Wright Board Room at the FCPS Administration Building

**Adjournment:**

J. Fauver made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Markwood

**Executive Committee Meeting:** Did not meet