

Gifted Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

FCPS Administration Building – Wright Board Room

**March 4, 2024**

**Call to order:** The quarterly meeting of the Frederick County Public Schools Gifted Advisory Committee was held on March 4, 2024, in the Wright Board Room in the FCPS Administration Building. The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. by J. Greathouse, Supervisor of Tiered Systems of Supports and Gifted Services.

**Members in attendance:**

<b>School</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School	J. Fauver
Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School	K. Sheikh
Armel Elementary School	S. Gregg
Bass Hoover Elementary School	R. Akers
Evendale Elementary School	Absent
Frederick County Middle School	Absent
Gainesboro Elementary School	Absent
Greenwood Mill Elementary School	A. Thomas
Indian Hollow Elementary School	Absent
James Wood High School	Absent
James Wood Middle School	T. Markwood
Jordan Springs Elementary School	Absent
Middletown Elementary School	Absent
Millbrook High School	T. Knight
Orchard View Elementary School	J. Miller
Redbud Run Elementary School	Absent
Robert E. Aylor Middle School	E. Heffern
Sherando High School	S. Sommerfeld
Stonewall Elementary School	A. Hawse
Gifted Resource Teacher Representative	M. Wilson
Gifted Visual Teacher Representative	L. Bibb
School Counseling Representative	K. Wilbourne
Supervisor of Tiered Systems of Supports & Gifted Services	J. Greathouse
Director of Middle and Secondary Instructional Services	J. Myers
School Administrator, High School and Chairperson	S. Andrews
School Administrator, Middle School	J. Rowan
School Administrator, Elementary School	Absent

**Welcome and Call to Order: 7:00 pm – Ms. Andrews, Chairperson**

**Purpose of the Gifted Advisory Committee:**

Located at the bottom of the agenda.

## **Approval of Agenda: Ms. Andrews**

A motion was made by K. Sheikh and seconded by J. Fauver

## **Approval of Minutes: Ms. Andrews**

Motion to approve minutes was made by T. Knight and seconded by M. Wilson

## **Chair's Report**

Ms. Andrews outlined the plans for this evening's meeting – that we will review three areas of focus in the *FCPS 2023-2029 Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted (Local Plan)*. This evening will focus on Part II: Program Goals and Objectives.

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

### Gifted Visual Arts - Ms. Bibb

- The Gifted Art Screening process has been completed.
- Gifted testing has begun with Gifted Committee Meetings happening in the next month or two.
- Additionally, spring art shows and resource nights are happening throughout the county at different schools.

### Governor's Schools - Dr. Greathouse

- BREGS
  - 47 applications received, could possibly get as many as 5 at-large seats; decision letters will be sent March 22, 2024
- PAVAN
  - Applications closed Feb 29<sup>th</sup>; adjudicators will be scoring all the application auditions submitted; decision letters will be sent in early April
- Summer Residential Governor's School (SRsGS)
  - 8 Academic applications submitted (6 for Math, Science & Technology/1 for JLAB/ 1 for Agriculture)
  - 5 visual and performing arts applications submitted (2 for vocal music / 3 for visual arts)
  - Students will receive decision letters in mid-April
- MVGS
  - Application deadline was Friday, March 1, 2024; testing, essays scored, and putting together all the information for the selection committee will happen between now and April 10, 2024

### Counselors - Ms. Wilbourne

- Same as last meeting – No changes. You can find these on the minutes from the January meeting.
- March and April are SOL writing assessments and schools will be in "full SOL mode" in May

### Chairperson – Ms. Andrews

- Digital SAT rolled out this year. Students can use Desmos calculator which they are used to using in class. Some schools can offer testing during the school day; testing does not have to only be on Saturday; and students do not have to travel. SAT is rebounding a bit; it was in decline the past few years.

### Administrator - Dr. Myers

- Instruction committee meetings are televised on YouTube about every 6 weeks. The next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>. Anything that is coming up is highlighted such as summer academies, Perkin's plans, and opportunities for students. Anyone can watch from home on YouTube – March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm – Dr. Myers encourages attendees to watch these since they are separate from the general board meeting.
- Budget information is available on school system website. The timeline to expect the budget to be approved is by April. There is also information there regarding the Board of Supervisors meeting with the School Board.
- Grading coalition is continuing to meet and hoping to provide a parent group opportunity in evenings in the near future. The parent group may have a guest expert, Thomas R Guskey, at those meetings. He has a global perspective on grading practices and approaches. The tentative date for the evening meeting is Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dr. Guskey will present that evening. He also just released a book on grading practices and families.

### Gifted Resource Teacher - Ms. Wilson

- Elementary
  - Students are having a fantastic time showing their amazing creativity in designing new cultures that reflect their personal values. We are looking forward to Parent Showcases in April/May. Invitations will be sent out to families in a few weeks.
- Middle
  - Gifted elective courses allow students to explore their interests, develop a love for learning and become self-directed learners through project-based learning, choice and autonomy, and inquiry-based learning. However, the expectation for deeper understanding/deeper learning, resilience and perseverance continue to be a concern.
- High School
  - This month in GIS, students have moved from the classroom to their mentorships. Mentorships topics include: chemistry, marine biology, oncology, education, neonatal intensive care, theater, and photography.
- Across Buildings
  - There continue to be space issues across the county, especially with the elementary school buildings.

### **Unfinished Business:**

None

## **New Business:**

Dr. Greathouse led committee members in an activity called Four “A”s Text Protocol. Each member has their own copy of FCPS Program Goals and Objectives section of the *Local Plan*. These Goals and Objectives were posted around the room on large pieces of paper. Committee members were prompted to review Program Goals and Objectives and write down responses on sticky notes to the following:

- ❖ What Assumptions do you notice?
- ❖ What do you Agree with?
- ❖ What do you want to Argue with?
- ❖ What do you see to Aspire to, Act on, or Advocate for?

Committee Members were asked to place their comments onto the large papers. Committee members then walked around the room and used a pen to mark with a star any of the sticky notes that stand out most to them – especially the Aspire/Advocate/Argue comments.

After Committee Members have completed this activity, Dr. Greathouse opened the meeting up for discussion time.

Middle School Administrator shared that the activity was useful. And that it would be a challenge to identify all potential gifted students, and it would require more human resources. As a division we should aspire to see gifted learners with needs as important as needs for students with academic and behavioral challenges. The challenge to consider - is our gifted population treated equitably?

Dr. Greathouse responded that the division screens every grade level every year for students potentially eligible for gifted services. Screening is state regulation. A lack of staff (delivery of services component) puts a focus on the need to do better at equitable representation.

Ms. Wilbourne noticed a decline in numbers of students signing up for PRISMS in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in favor of taking high school credits.

Dr. Myers added that challenges with students having enough space in their schedules for performing arts (i.e. band) competes with PRISMS. GEMS should always be a first semester course.

Ms. Andrews mentioned that there is potential for developing a credit bearing class at middle school level for research components found in the PRISMS curriculum.

Dr. Greathouse said that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who took PRISMS do much better in the research course at Mountain Vista Academic-Year Governor’s School (MVGS).

J. Miller (OVES) and Dr. Myers agree that after taking band and language classes there is not enough time in a student’s schedule for PRISMS. They suggested that if there was a gifted resource teacher in each building they could push into general education classes and support further research skills.

K. Sheikh (APRES) questioned if there is longitudinal data about gifted students and where they end up with specialized classes and advanced schooling when they graduate from high school.

Dr. Greathouse noted that most students at MVGS are earning an Associate's Degree through Laurel Ridge Community College. Students in the three high school settings can also earning an Associate's Degree at the same cost. Many of those students are also eligible for gifted services. MVGS offers a community of learners, small classes, similar student interests, being on a college campus, and teachers certified for dual enrollment 100% of time. The group discussed what factors impact student choices regarding applying/attending Governor's school or not.

**Announcements:**

School Board Art Showcase – May 8, 2024, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

PRISMS Showcase – May 20, 2024 at REA from 10:00 to 11:30AM

GIS Showcases – Start time is 5:00PM

- JWHS – May 20, 2024
- MHS – May 22, 2024
- SHS – May 23, 2024

**Public Comment:**

None

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm – James Wood Middle School Library

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm – Wright Board Room of the FCPS Administration Building

**Adjournment:**

K. Wilbourne made the motion to adjourn the meeting and J. Fauver seconded. The meeting adjourned at **8:11 PM**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Markwood

**Executive Committee Meeting:** Did not meet