

Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) to the Norfolk

School Board Presiding Officer: Dr. Ronald White

October 14th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held at Academy for Discovery at Lakewood-1701 Alsace Avenue, Norfolk, Va. 23509

In attendance:

Members:

Dr. Ronald White	Chair, Parent
Dr. Jori Beck	Co-Vice Chair, Community
Karla Stead	Sr. Coordinator, Gifted Ed & Academic Rigor Services/GEARS
Dr. David Courson	Co-Vice Chair, Parent
Dr. Serita Griffin	Secretary, Community
Tiffany Geerts	Parent
Alexandria Weigelt	Community
Elizabeth McKenzie	Parent
Hollis Simodynes	Parent
Melissa Reese	Parent

Guests:

Camille Galloway	GRT
Kim Biemann	GRT
Bruce Brady	Executive Director
Catherine Edwards	GRT

Welcome: Dr. White called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Old Business

Review of minutes: Dr. White asked the members if they had reviewed the minutes/notes from the meeting held on September 9th, 2025 and that were provided via email for members to review.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Courson with a minor correction. The minutes, with the correction, were approved by all present

members.

New Business

At 6:10 Dr. White facilitated a discussion about the Smart Goals and tasked members and attendees to choose 6 Smart Goals to receive more information/data about.

- At 6:12 members broke into groups to discuss the goals.

At 6:39 Dr. White called the group back together to discuss the responsibilities of GEAC.

At 6:40 members and attendees introduced themselves.

At 6:46 Dr. White led a discussion on the proposed district restructuring that would affect the specialty programs at The Rosemont Academy of International Studies.

- Members and attendees spent time discussing their concerns about the plan to move students from Rosemont to another school.
- Forms have been put out to the community for feedback.
- Bruce Brady shared that the Rosemont School would be repurposed/restructured so that it would be able to accommodate, AOIS, Young Scholars, and Ghent School.
- A facilitation team would be put in place to ensure the integration (for all schools being consolidated/repurposed) the transitions go smoothly.

At 7:00 p.m. Dr. White discussed with members and attendees how gifted education is funded.

- The state is responsible for funding gifted education services.
- Local school divisions are required to match the funding they receive from the state.
 - School divisions with fewer resources may not be able to match the funding from the state.
 - There is no mandated federal funding for Gifted Education. However, the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Act provides support for research, demonstration projects, and innovative strategies particularly for underrepresented students. Funding: 16.5 million
- For the Fiscal 2026 budget year, the U.S. Department of Education is proposing eliminating the funding for the Javits Program.
- Dr. White encouraged members and attendees to write to local congressman, Bobby Scott, to oppose the elimination of the Javits Program.

At 7:09 members and attendees shared their comments regarding the Smart Goals that

were reviewed earlier.

- Goal A.4
- Goal C-C. 4

Public comment:

At 7: 13 Dr. White opened the public comment portion of the meeting for stakeholders wishing to address the GEAC on the topic of their choice regarding gifted education. All stakeholders are welcome to give their full statements in writing to the GEAC chair at rlwhite@nsu.edu

Follow-up regarding issues raised will be conducted as needed and shared with the full committee. No public comments were offered prior to the meeting.

Announcements

- Virtual Parent and Guardian Elementary Workshop-Wednesday, October 15th, 5:30-6:30pm
- Young Scholars Information Session Open House-October 30th, 5:30-7:30pm. Rosemont Middle School
- Online application for Young Scholars is currently not working. They are working on getting it back up and running.
- Brain Fuse program is available through Clever for students needing tutoring. It is available for students at home.

REMAINING 2025-2026 GEAC MEETING DATE

November 18th, 2025
January 13th, 2025
February 10th, 2025
March, 10th, 2025
April 14th, 2025
May 12th, 2025

Chair Closing Remarks -Members may submit all feedback via email to Dr. Ronald White at rlwhite@nsu.edu

At 7:22 –Dr. Courson motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and all members agreed to adjourn.