

GATE District Advisory Committee Meeting
January 10, 2012
6:00-7:00 pm
District Office Annex Conference Room

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes from November 2011 meeting were presented. No corrections noted. Minutes were approved as presented.

- Presentation of new GATE Secretary, Kim Bessey.

Guest Speaker Invitations to Upcoming Events

- Eimi Garcia, College & Career Supervisor from Dept. of 7-12 Instructional Services. Her role is to support instructional offices and focus on college/career readiness.

Upcoming event: Roadmap to College event this year will be held in addition to the regular College Fair. 2 events will be held on Thursday, March 1 at Los Amigos, and on Thursday, March 8 at Rancho Alamitos. Both will be held from 5pm-8pm. 45 min presentations will be offered on a variety of topics which will give more flexibility to parents. Event is open to 7-12 students and parents. Topics will target different grade levels. Tips and strategies for highly selective colleges will be discussed. Amy is asking for GATE DAC to help to promote event to community. Flyers now on GATE website <http://www.ggusd.k12.ca.us/departments/GATE/index.asp>.

- Teri Rocco, Parent Outreach Coordinator

Upcoming event: The Power of Parents Community Outreach meeting – Keeping Up With the Latest Trends in Teen Substance Abuse. Things change and want to keep parents updated with latest trends in teen risky behaviors. Parent breakout sessions are offered with professional psychologists & other professionals. Samples of drug paraphernalia may be displayed in partnership with the GG Police Department. 2nd half of meeting will be set up as stations with different resources available regarding the topic. Teri is asking for our help to promote event to community.

Upcoming event: Promoting Positive Choices – targeted at West Garden Grove schools, but all are welcome. Event will be held at Pacifica HS 1/31 at 6:30-8pm. Substance abuse topic specifically targeted to WGG community. Information is gathered from CA Healthy Kids survey. Q&A time will be offered. Sergeants from Garden Grove Police Department will come and speak regarding accessibility of drugs in WGG.

Overview: ELA Companion A, Intermediate Schools

Background – Program was born last year at school sites. ELA Companion A is a 7-8 grade program that started address need for rigorous ELA coursework for advanced students. They have developed path of rigor that leads to honors and AP courses in high school. Program offers 4 possibilities of English courses in 7-8 grades and was devised for teachers to target instruction to student's needs. The criteria for Companion A addresses what advanced ELA students need in English at this grade level. Research fir domains taken from CAG & National Association for Gifted .

Core ELA Companion A Domains are:

1. Rigorous content
2. Enriched connections to universal ideas and across disciplines
3. Spoken and written opportunities

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4. Enriched connections to text and vocabulary

Preparing GATE and non-GATE kids for honor and AP classes in high school. Teachers are being trained on strategies to develop appropriate lessons. Companion courses in 7th grade at Bell differ in that the advanced students take only the 7th Companion A course and not the additional English 7I course that other 7th graders in the district take.

Sharing From School Sites

- Allen- is celebrating receiving National Blue Ribbon and designated number one school in county. A teacher and the Principal got to go to Washington DC to receive national award of excellence.
- Bell – Parents and students are feeling frustrated about the lack of communication regarding the Measure A relocation plan.
- Patton – Parents are feeling frustration about lack of communication from district regarding Patton’s hosting Garden Park next year due to Measure A.
- Peters – AR at Peters, but not offered at Allen. Parent concern is about why it is not offered. Discussion about the fact that AR is individual to school site and offered or not offered based on different factors. Schools can have different motivators to promote reading and be excited about reading.

Report from GATE Office

- Electronic Survey Feedback
Feedback solicited about questions that are being asked on survey. Survey will be on website. Need input about whether it is sufficient or not. Please review and let Sandi know if you have suggestions about the sample survey from different school. Have suggestions to Sandi by end of February
- Intermediate Orientation Feedback
Necessary?? - for any 6th grade GATE parent/child going to intermediate. Separate from what principal does for general education.
- Training Updates
Poetry circles – poetry analysis for K-6 GATE teachers.
In December, Sandi and the Office of 7-12 Instruction conducted breakouts Differentiation, thinking tools & instructional hooks and Secondary Management for teachers at La Quinta & Pacifica
- CAG Conference, Palm Springs
Annie Mai announced that CA Foundation for Gifted Education will be offering 3-6 scholarships for GATE parents to attend conference, March 4th. Full day geared specifically toward parents is Sunday of conference weekend. If you are interested, a blind drawing will be done to select recipients of the scholarship. Interest sheet was circulated at meeting.

Announcements

Next DAC Meeting – April 3, 2012 @ 6pm

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.