



JEFFERSON COUNTY ASSOCIATION
FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

Board Meeting
November 1, 2018
Location: Ed Center
Room: 2A Time: 4:30
pm – 6:30 pm

- I. Open Meeting and Introductions – Jean (4 minutes)
 - General Housekeeping items – time management

- II. Matt Wilkinson and Jennifer Mulhern, Jeffco GT RT (26 minutes)
 - Summary of Artic Areas
 - Identifying “Talent” and Talent Pool updates
- III. Ambassador Program (20 minutes)
 - Discussion of recruiting

- IV. GT Department Focused Discussion - Roger (30 minutes)
 - DUIP Target Progress

- V. Committee Summaries (20 minutes)
 - Katherine – Communications (Amy, Lisa, Katherine, Kelly)
 - Guy – Community Outreach (Guy, Lisa, Kelly, Beth)
 - Ayrolyn – Ambassadors (Ayrolyn, Danielle)

- VI. Upcoming Superintendent Mtg and Parent Info Night – Jean (20 minutes)
 - Mental Health and GT Needs
 - Panel members for Parent Info Night

JAGC Board 2018-2019

Executive Board: President - Jean Willis-Brown, Vice President - Danielle Hicks,
Secretary – Beth Clark, Treasurer – Katherine
Rickard, Members at Large: Guy Nahmiach,
Michelle Stone, Nancy Yanasak, Amy Dougherty,
Ayrolyn Keady, Lisa Girard, Kelly Bunnell Ex
Officio Member: Roger Dowd

I. Open Meeting and Introductions – Jean (4 minutes)

- General Housekeeping items – time management

Stick to the agenda so we can discuss everything we set out to. Wait until a speaker is finished (jot down your questions and ask

II. Matt Wilkinson and Jennifer Mulhern, Jeffco GT RT (26 minutes)

- Summary of Artic Areas
- Identifying “Talent” and Talent Pool updates

Matt – based at Westridge Elementary in Littleton, Dakota Ridge area, 5 years

Jennifer – main is Stevens, 3rd year in role

Matt – Talent Aptitude Identification presentation. CGER identified practices as out of compliance with state guidelines

Now have “Pathway 3” Talent Identification Tactic to address (talent area identification, NOT talent pool). Arts+

Specific Talent Aptitudes. Sorting out what types of evidence to assess; 3 broad areas are performance eval, observation scale and testing. Parent website is guide for what to do if seeking that type of identification (for each area).

2018-2019: Leadership and Visual arts. Future release: Music, Performing arts, Dance.

Possible school in Jeffco for Visual Arts (grades 6-9 initial year, anticipated to go through 12 later). Not specific to GT. identified. Criteria for entrance?

Recommendations at this point, menu of choices on how to get in, ex. portfolio, teacher review.

Arts+ identification is meant to be a path for kids who wouldn’t otherwise be identified (but it doesn’t have to be limited to that). Pathway 3 guidelines don’t mandate GT education (especially for psychomotor, dance), but those could be in ALP to help support time away from school for training (ex. Olympic ski team). Programming is less defined.

Once they’re identified, then what. What services? 85% of IDed students are not in center schools; it’s ALP, how can we work collaboratively to develop those strengths/talents and address challenges. Identification gives students voice and confidence to advocate for themselves, and permission to explore.

Creative and/or Productive Thinking (not visual/performing arts) but out of the box thinker, original approach. Penn State or the state pen. Torrance Test of Creativity – 8 different areas, part of the rubric you can see on the website.

Jennifer – talent pool. CGER review. 13% of student population is identified.

Underrepresented for underserved, 2e, English-language learners (ELL). Talent pool is to ID kids who we think have potential that aren’t at that 95%. You don’t need an ALP to program for kids with potential. Include schools that have low ID. RTs go to

schools and work with teachers. ID students based on teacher referral, MAP, more. Programming, education with teachers, depth and complexity. Worked with different departments (Title 1, ELL, FRL) to get their perspective. 95% or higher is what you need to be IDed; we're looking at ~80-94%. 95th percentile nationally normed. Talent pool looks at local norms (top 5-10% within that school). Get enriched programming throughout. Only 6% 2e kids, we know there are more out there. Working on mindsets about what kids are capable of (you can be gifted and not able to read). Only 1% out of all ELL ID gifted. Should be ~12%. Free/reduced lunch (FRL) should also be ~12%. Should have 12% across every subgroup. 15-20% of your education is personal experience. Even the playing field. Different way of thinking about how you program for kids. Maker space. Sensory labs – 3 different. Talent pool extending throughout the district? Plan is to create a process this year. 7 now Stevens, Seacrest, Laslie, Allendale, Everett, Dean, Jefferson Middle. So then RTs can take it to their schools, ramp up slow. Hope to get 15. A lot we're working with are Title 1 schools. Can't tell the schools what to do, start with the willing. Danielle's school does something like that but not called "talent pool." Where do RTs see need.

How can JAGC help? Now we know. Talk about it. Title dept has family liaisons at each school. Gathering how we communicate among ourselves, and then expand to how we communicate to the schools. "Talking points" sheet for principals. Returning from winter break. Ultimately talent pool should be throughout the district (not limited to title schools). Most important predictor of kid success in school is parent income.

III. Ambassador Program (20 minutes)

· Discussion of recruiting

We should have more ambassadors. We have 5 (in GT Center schools). Why aren't we making better connections (16 RTs)? Do teachers feel uncomfortable sending parents to other parents. Jean asked principals to send us willing folks. We have to have something in place to make the parents effective, work with the RTs.

Jean: By the end of the year we should have an ambassador in every GT school – goal. Should we set up a training and send that out to the principals? Like January 15, dinner. Roger: Likes that idea.

Can we include counselors, mental health? Sure

Send us the person who's going to be the point person for your GT anything.

Principals could put it in their Friday folder.

Jean says have it in advance so we know what it is. Principals prepare parents so they aren't afraid when they show up.

Michelle: Is it really valuable? Jean: Not yet because we haven't fully implemented.

Jennifer: Teachers go to building liaisons (BL). That's who I went to to ask for a parent liaison for the family aspect. We have videos. Danielle: Not all the BLs know these things. RTs can't go to BLs across the board.

Katherine: Principals talk to parents. That's the best bet. Guy: Principals are turning over, getting better all the time.

Ambassador role is to disseminate information regarding GT topics and events.

Roger: We can get 12 more Ambassadors at the Center schools, and reach out to ALP-heavy neighborhood schools. Use meetings to highlight the high achievers, follow-up at each meeting. Training February – pick date and time. Get the new ambassadors to come to “Ask us anything”. February Ambassador recruitment month.

We need someone in each building to get things in Friday folders (through the principals)

Committee should say what time / what day. We told the principals we would train them. Tell them go through the website / videos (30 min) and then come and we'll answer all your questions. Or have them watch the videos in person and then answer questions.

Videos are stale.

In the big schools we could have a few ambassadors.

They answer the questions that JAGC answers at events. Principals can send parents to them.

IV. GT Department Focused Discussion - Roger (30 minutes)

· DUIP Target Progress

Review of handout District Unified Improvement Plan

This was one of the Priority Performance Challenges from last year

Overall identification rates are going down; takes a lot longer to get the body of evidence

Adding identification categories is going to muddy the data. Disaggregate to set more accurate targets.

· January parent seminar. Social/emotional session will be split. First timeslot is 101, second is SENG/sharing group

Send reminder to all ALP families – come chat w JAGC 45 minutes early. This is first time neighborhood school parents have a tribe. Suggestion to include details in tweets and such “early access”

Email ALP parents – we've been judicious about use of the list. Use it.

GT update emails – ask “include this in your Friday folder”. Include in January and February

V. Committee Summaries (20 minutes)

· Katherine – Communications (Amy, Lisa, Katherine, Kelly)

Doing newsletter a little differently

- push to the calendar (limit length a little); use a blog format to display on the website

- entire board can contribute (send ready) content; committee can smooth editing/tone, proofread

- Guy – Community Outreach (Guy, Lisa, Kelly, Beth)

Sat down with new principal at Prospect Valley. Website has turned into non-committal, allowing teachers to decide how much/what to do. Only one advanced class, math. No mention of ALPs. High ALP school Stevens have added cluster education. Seen drop in GT enrollment. Drop in GT enrollment at Wheatridge High. Used to be kids come from Everett “this kid is smart” into GT; now you have to be tested. Stevens keeping 2 GT teachers fully funded another year. Everett continuing to develop project-based learning (PBL), teachers not on board finding new places.

Election has become focus or education. Peak Elementary gets \$8300/kid. Jeffco kids get half that.

Update on research for his column – include in newsletter when completed

- Ayrolyn – Ambassadors (Ayrolyn, Danielle)

Reasonable expectation – be helpful. Help people find information. Relationship with principal so they have access to Friday folders. You don’t have to have the answer, just help them find it. Need to update the job description on the website (so it’s not overwhelming).

Get together for a committee meeting. Ayrolyn look at her calendar and send an email, share a doc / invite the whole board to contribute.

VI. Upcoming Superintendent Mtg and Parent Info Night – Jean (20 minutes)

- Mental Health and GT Needs

- Panel members for Parent Info Night

On Tuesday we have a quarterly superintendent meeting – mental health: needs for counselors. Getting on radar that GT kids need neighborhood resources. Guy wants to go. Michelle wants to go.