

QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Meeting

November 6, 2008

1. General meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Dana Pearce, Asst. Principal, explained purpose of Gifted Advisory Council and discussed roles of Committee Chairpersons. Committee Chairperson candidates were introduced, and Chairpersons were voted into positions as follows:
 - a. Research & Education Committee Chairperson – **Tom Barker – COUNCIL CHAIR**
 - b. By-Laws/Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chairperson – **Genie Toner**
 - c. Fundraising Committee Chairpersons – **Kelly and Keane Chapman**
 - d. Parent Volunteer Committee Chairperson – **Kelly Brewer**
 - e. Program Development Committee Chairperson – **Dr. Poonam Malhotra**
 - f. Communication Committee Chairperson – **Stacy Tarbox**
 - g. Parent Representatives:
 - i. K-2 – **Renee Fisher**
 - ii. 3-5 – **Lori Lee**
 - iii. 6-8 – **Steve and Cecelia Bennett**
3. Additional Council Members as follows:
 - a. Explorer K-8 Assistant Principal – **Dana Pearce – COUNCIL VICE CHAIR**
 - b. Guidance Counselor for Gifted – **Carmela Sardogan**
 - c. State Gifted Representative – **Cindy Gustafson**
 - d. Community Representative, Former Hernando County School Board Member – **Jim Malcolm**
 - e. Secretary – **Lisa Yount**
 - f. Teacher Representatives – not yet identified
4. Meeting comprised of official council members continued.
5. Programmatic suggestions made:
 - a. Kelly Brewer will meet with teachers to determine volunteer needs (both in-class and at-home volunteers).
 - b. Tom Barker suggested book talks.
 - c. Lisa Yount suggested contacting Dr. Carolyn Snyder to introduce “global learning centers”.
 - d. Suggestion was made that QAGAC meeting minutes be sent home in student’s backpacks as well as available on-line.
 - e. Council will revisit school’s eligibility for Odyssey of the Mind, and application for National Geographic Spelling Bee.
6. Council members decided to work via email between meetings and agreed to copy all council members on all correspondence until deciding otherwise.
7. Future meeting dates determined: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; next meeting date - Friday, December 4th, at 5:30 p.m. (time adjusted due to schedule conflict with PTSA meeting), in the media center.
8. Closing statements made by Dana Pearce.
9. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

QUEST ACADEMY GIFTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

QAGAC Meeting

December 4, 2008

1. General meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. Tom Barker made welcoming comments and introduced handouts: meeting agenda, meeting minutes from 11/6/08 meeting, sample input form for contact information, general by-laws outline.
3. Motion was made and accepted to approve minutes from 11/6/08 meeting.
4. Council discussed what would constitute a quorum; Tom Barker received votes both via email and during meeting: 13 responses received (12 yes/1 no) for decision to use 50%+1 of committee to constitute a quorum. Council motioned and approved quorum would constitute 50%+1.
5. By-Laws: Genie Toner recommended forming a sub-committee to draft by-laws for presentation to the body at the February meeting for review and adoption. By-Laws sub-committee members: Genie Toner, Jim Malcolm, Dana Pearce
6. Mission Statement: Genie Toner presented sample mission statements; both were fairly brief and generally broad statements regarding what the purpose of the council should be. A second sub-committee was identified to work on mission statement and council goals. Draft mission statement will be presented at January meeting for review and possible adoption. Mission Statement Sub-committee members: Lori Lee, Jim Malcolm
7. Review of council member positions and roles, and purpose of committees:
 - a. Misc. info – Keane Chapman will not serve as a committee member; Lydia Pinkowski will not serve as a voting member; Kelly Chapman will not serve as Treasurer.
 - b. Teacher Representatives and Treasurer position were voted:
 - i. Teachers – Pam Jones, Nichole Rundell
 - ii. Treasurer – Pam Jones
 - c. Jim Malcolm suggested that each sub-committee chair present at the January meeting a draft of the role/purpose of the committee they chair.
 - d. Role of council members:
 - i. Teacher representative – to bring the teacher’s perspective to the council and represent the students for that grade level.
 - ii. Parent representative – council discussed whether the parent representative should simply represent a parent’s perspective or be the liaison between all parents of students who are gifted and the GAC; Idea was presented for parent representative to serve as “Council Representative” for the K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 grade levels.
 1. Motion made and accepted to change name of “Parent Representative” to “Council Representative”.
 - iii. Jim Malcolm reminded the council what was requested of the Council from the School Board, which consists of dealing with more general fundamentals of the program rather than council members becoming a sounding board for parents. For example, programmatic issues are items as, “What is the status of...”
 1. Donations from Dell for technology in the classroom?
 2. Singapore Math – ordered, but partially in place?
 3. Field Trips – where are the funds to support the field trips?
 4. William and Mary Textbooks – where are they?

8. Funds/Fundraising: Kelly Chapman discussed purpose of fundraising as raising funds for gifted related activities, to bring in guest speakers, etc. Fundraising proposals:
 - a. Valentine's Day dance for middle school students and "Learn to Dance" dance, Father/Daughter or Mother/Son dance for the elementary students
 - i. GAC would be responsible for organizing dance for entire school
 - ii. DJ, security, refreshments would be needed; could bring in \$800 - \$1000
 - iii. Recommendation was made to share discussion with SAC for organizing dances
 1. Council voted to organize a K-5 dance for students to attend with an adult
 2. Volunteers for organizing: Kelly Brewer-Balch, Pam Jones, Kelly Chapman, Fran Poland, Nicole Rundell, Samuel Gonzales
 - b. Car magnets (from Pollytuffy, Inc.)
 1. Council voted to proceed with the sale of car magnets, will need to take place after dance, due to current lack of funds or Council will need to use personal funds and get reimbursed after sale of magnets
 - c. Additional ideas – council voted to table
 - i. Community Arts sale – similar to a garage sale with all proceeds going to GAC
 - ii. Bowling activity with joint benefit to an organization in the community
 - iii. A parent volunteered to sell Candlelight at AGE night at 50% discount with proceeds coming back to the school. Jim Malcolm will check on district policy for vendor involvement for fundraising.
 - d. Genie Toner asked about where the FTE funds are that are generated for the gifted students, and also recommended that fundraising ideas be big, possibly approaching businesses for donations.
 - e. Cindy Gustafson will work on getting concrete answers from the DOE regarding budgets and how funds for gifted program have been/will be spent.
9. Treasurer details:
 - a. Council determined necessity of creating separate bank account for fundraising and money raised/earned by Quest activities.
 - b. Suggestion was made to open a SunTrust account before December 31st and designate PAGES as an associated charity. This would make QAGAC eligible to receive \$100 new account bonus.
10. Activities:
 - a. Geography Bee, (\$70 entry fee) and Math Counts, (\$80 entry fee) – unable to initiate at this time due to deadline restraints
 - i. Council motioned and accepted movement forward for next year.
 - b. Odyssey of the Mind – must be organized by Dec. 12th
 - i. Council motioned and accepted waiting until following year to organize teams.
11. Website: - council tabled discussion
 - a. Council discussed creating website separate from EdLine using new domain name, or linking to EdLine.
 - i. Motion made and accepted to table website discussion until Dana Pearce is available.
12. Florida Virtual School:
 - a. Handouts were distributed with regard to virtual school course offerings and how the district handles high school credit when these FLVS courses are taken while in middle school.

- b. Due to time constraints, council decided to continue discussion at future meeting.
13. Volunteer update:
- a. Many volunteers needed in various capacities, for example childcare volunteers.
 - b. Council motioned and approved Kelly to draft a cover letter and form for parents to complete regarding participation in committees and also in classrooms or at home; form will be presented at AGE night and will be compared to teacher needs
14. Logo:
- a. Council discussed Quest Academy having its own logo separate from the general Explorer K-8 school logo, for use on T-shirts, magnets, etc. Council motioned and accepted.
 - b. Council determined that the school should take on responsibility of designing the logo, possibly through a logo contest. Details, including how the council could support the process, will be discussed between Stacy Tarbox and Dana Pearce and will be reported at next council meeting.
15. Parent questionnaire results:
- a. Intended to capture parent interests, questions regarding the entire gifted program, topics of interest, etc.
 - i. Top issues were 1) Stress Tolerance, 2) Intolerance and the Too-Smart Mouth, 3) Disorganization
 - ii. Tom Barker and Poonam Malhotra will discuss how to address parent questionnaire results
16. Lydia Pinkowski, ESE Supervisor, presented postponing grade-wide screening in 1st grade for one year at the request of the Superintendent. Council does not want to grant request but to continue plans for countywide screening next year.
17. Motion made and accepted to address all future council related emails only to council members for whom the email issue is relevant.
18. Next meeting date: Thursday, January 8th, 2009, 6:00 p.m., in the media (Dana to confirm location)
19. Closing statements made by Tom Barker; agenda items for January include:
- a. Programmatic issues such as status of:
 - 1. Donations from Dell for technology in the classroom?
 - 2. Singapore Math – ordered but partially in place?
 - 3. Field Trips – where are the funds to support the field trips?
 - 4. William and Mary Textbooks – where are they?
 - b. District policy for vendor involvement for fundraising.
 - c. DOE response regarding budgets and how funds Quest have been/will be spent.
 - d. Website (if Dana Pearce is present)
 - e. Florida Virtual School
20. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.