

## HIGHLY CAPABLE LEARNERS PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 27, 2017

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Central Services

**Attendees:**

- Chris Airoidi
- Cathy Beecham
- Cathie Brown
- Dawn Christiana
- Mike Copland
- Veronica Douglas
- Prateek Dutta
- Chelsea Jackson

- Andreas Hajos
- Robert Kalahan
- Sharon King
- Maryann Kuhn
- Regan Levinson
- Michelle Morse
- Trish Neary

- Pam Pottle
- Vicky Reardon
- Carrie Schwarz
- Brad Stone
- Maia Thomas
- Sarah Walker
- Sara White

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
<b>Welcome</b>	- Dawn Christiana, Director of Teaching and Learning and lead for Highly Capable, welcomed members and shared the overview for the agenda items for the April meeting.	
<b>Updates About Our Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dawn shared about Future Problem Solvers (FPS), a class offered at many of the middle schools, will be taking two teams to the International Competition.</li> <li>- Dawn continued by adding in the coming years more options will be made available for identified students as FPS mainly serves students identified highly capable in the verbal area.</li> <li>- A parent asked why FPS isn't offered earlier for students?</li> <li>- Dawn shared the reason we don't offer FPS from fourth to sixth grade is we want to allow for diverse opportunities for students to choose areas of passion.</li> <li>- A parent who works within the community shared their experience in trying to facilitate a science club with community members and it became an equity issue as only those who had the resources were able to participate.</li> <li>- Dawn shared that every middle school utilizes FPS differently to try to meet the needs of their students.</li> <li>- Dr. Mike Copland, Deputy Superintendent, shared his experience working within the middle school community. When he was teaching, there were built in options for students such as art, technology and music. Elective opportunities at the middle level have become squeezed and if there was funding in place, we envision a middle school schedule with more student elective opportunities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dawn shared information on Smarter Balance Assessment for third grade students and how students identified in the verbal area did on the assessment results.</li> </ul>	
<b>Changes at the high school level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dawn provided information about the case manager at the high school level who meets with students during the year and works on high school and beyond plans. She shared the challenges the case manager faces in their role.</li> <li>- There was a discussion among members regarding the high school counselor's capacity and possibility for them receiving professional development support in order to support students identified highly capable.</li> <li>- A parent asked if the process would change for students taking PSAT or PreACT?</li> <li>- Dawn shared that not all students need to take these assessments as they already are taking part in a lot of testing and it is a case by case basis.</li> <li>- Dawn requested feedback from members on the professional development for counselors.</li> <li>- A parent shared their hope would be to see more focus on rigor, passion, and fun in class courses.</li> <li>- A parent questioned the focus on Advanced Placement (AP) courses at high schools and that taking AP courses doesn't necessarily mean a challenge for all students identified but might just mean more work.</li> </ul>	
<b>Spring Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dawn asked for feedback on the spring survey from members and printed copies of the survey were passed around and worked on in groups.</li> <li>- Feedback was collected to be shared with the team working with students identified highly capable.</li> </ul>	
<b>Your Ideas?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dawn shared the structure of the family night (pizza and games, then parents/guardians chose from various breakout options while kids played games).</li> <li>- A parent who attend the recent family night shared positive feedback regarding the structure.</li> </ul>	

**FOR NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 25**