

HIGHLY CAPABLE LEARNERS PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 16, 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
- Quenby Peterson

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
Welcome	- Dawn Christiana, Director of Teaching and Learning and lead for Highly Capable, welcomed members and gave an overview of the agenda items for the meeting.	
Student Learning Plans	<p>- Dawn explained how Student Learning Plans (SLPs) came about due to the work done by the Program Review and the purpose of SLPs as a means to measure growth of our students identified Highly Capable.</p> <p>- A member asked about the role of liaisons working with students identified Highly Capable Learners and whether they assist with the student learning plan?</p> <p>- Dawn responded that at each elementary and middle school the liaisons roles differ depending on the needs of that school. Liaisons are a point person for teachers and families at the school level and when needed involve team members in the Department of Teaching and Learning.</p> <p>- Dawn posed the question “If it is a priority to have an SLP and if so, what is the purpose of the student learning plan?” She had members break into small groups to discuss.</p> <p>- Each group responded stating it is a priority because it allows for a documented history for each student, it provides measureable data and allows for collaboration between teacher and family.</p>	<p>* Work on communication to families and schools on who to contact for SLP plan needs.</p> <p>* During Family Night or Orientation for new families, talk about how to advocate for their students in a way that is beneficial to all involved.</p> <p>* Possibility of liaisons being able to do something at the school level to talk about advocacy.</p>

April Family Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn asked for members to help brainstorm for April family night because there will be no high school panel of students due to the new high school schedule change for 2017-18. - Members provided ideas for the upcoming family night and the information was collected and shared with the team working with students identified Highly Capable to review and discuss. 	
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn shared how the final professional development Choice Day went Friday, March 10 and that feedback around teachers getting to choose their area of learning has been beneficial. - Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Mike Copland shared information regarding an ongoing study. Walter Parker is the lead researcher and has done a comparison of Advanced Placement (AP) courses with a problem-based learning approach, which they compared to the traditional approach. Students who had the problem-based approach scored higher on the AP test than students who were taught using tradition methods. 	
English Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn explained the current model for the math pathway in Bellingham Public Schools and how this is different from the English pathway. The math pathway is able to be much more concise, whereas within the English pathway there is so much differentiation happening in the classroom most student's needs can be supported without the need to accelerate them out of their grade level. - Dawn will be meeting with ninth grade high school students who have showed the potential need for acceleration and will do an on-demand task to show their proficiency with the tenth grade English content. Students who are identified will be able to accelerate past English 10. - A parent shared their concern regarding there not being an English pathway at the middle school level. 	

FOR NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 27

- Revisit English Pathway for Middle School (possible panel)