

PreK-12 Highly Capable Program Review Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 03, 2013

Central Services, Board Room

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bellingham Public Schools

A Collective Commitment

Attendees: Michelle Abernathy, Kate Baehr, Kris Carpenter, Mike Copland, Susan Cotton, Haley Davis, Veronica Douglas, Michael Finley, Jeff Jacobs, Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Lori Radvany, Laurene Rusing, Keith Schacht, Rebekah Sharf, Dana Smith, Rachel Smith, Adrienne Somera.

Guest Speaker: *Gail Hanninen, HCP Review Consultant*

Topic	Discussion	Recommendations
1. Overview of Agenda; Welcome and Plus/Delta Feedback; Our Mantra; Norms; Introductions	<p>Michelle Kuss-Cybula welcomed committee members and discussed the group's written feedback comments (plus/delta) from the first meeting. Members discussed the committee's mantra of "Many voices, one dream" and agreed to continue discussion during the next meeting. Susan Cotton led a one word energizer activity in which members worked in small groups to describe and define the program they would like to see. The Norms of Collaboration presented at the last meeting were reviewed. Michelle introduced Gail Hanninen, the consultant who performed a review of the Bellingham Public Schools Highly Capable Program.</p> <p>To view the Norms of Collaboration, click here.</p>	
2. Overview of the Program Review ; Review of the NAGC Standards and WAC	<p>Gail Hanninen presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of her program review process. Gail clarified she did not perform an evaluation of the program, but rather a review process that will enable the committee to clarify the next steps toward preparing a final recommendation to the Superintendent of the vision, mission and purpose of the K-12 Highly Capable Program. Gail included the following as part of her program review process: framework of national standards, Washington Administrative Code, data sources, policies, survey, student performances, demographics, and interviews. Gail outlined and discussed each of the National Association of Gifted Children gifted programming standards: 1) Learning and Development; 2) Assessments; 3) Curriculum Planning and Instruction; 4) Learning Environments; 5) Programming; and 6) Professional Development.</p> <p>To view the PowerPoint, <i>Gifted Program Review – an Overview</i>, please click here.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Recommendations
<p>3. Standard 1; Roadmap; Developing a Concept of Highly Capable/Giftedness; Summary of Recommendations for Standard 1</p>	<p>Michelle Kuss-Cybula discussed the importance of a “roadmap” for the committee process and asked the question: When you go through a program review, where are you going to go to build your program? The program is being reviewed so that it will align with the new required standards.</p> <p>Standard 1 of the National Association of Gifted Children gifted programming standards is Learning and Development. Michelle stated it is important to recognize the differences of learning and development of gifted students and that “one size does not fit all”. We have different levels of giftedness in our district. How are we setting up programs to ensure we are meeting the needs of gifted students?</p> <p>Recommendations regarding Standard 1 include the following: That educators recognize the learning and developmental differences of gifted students; that educators promote ongoing self-understanding and awareness of the needs of gifted students; and that educators promote cognitive and affective growth in all settings to assure specific student outcomes. Michelle led a further question-and-answer-session with Gail Hanninen.</p>	
<p>4. Current Reality; Activating Background Knowledge; Chalk-Talk Activity: Identifying Themes</p>	<p>Susan Cotton led the committee in an activity to reveal the current realities of what is happening in the Bellingham Public School’s Highly Capable Program.</p>	
<p>5. The Five Areas of Giftedness; Case Studies; Personal Reflection</p>	<p>The committee discussed five domains of giftedness and reviewed five individual case studies. The committee worked in small groups to examine each case study and determined what domains of giftedness each case study child exhibited.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Recommendations
6. Standard 5; Overview; Summary of Recommendations	Susan Cotton presented to the committee a tiered model approach currently used for the standard classroom and described how it serves to meet the individual needs of each individual learner. The same model can be tiered to serve gifted students as well.	
7. Voices of Our Students	Adrienne Somera read the written reflections of current Bellingham Public Schools elementary highly capable learners. The students were asked to write down what they wanted the committee to hear about their experiences in the highly capable program.	
8. Building our Mission Statement	Michelle summarized the committee's work of refining a vision for the program and to connect the vision and purpose to The Bellingham Promise. She led the members in a task to form a mission statement.	
9. Levels of Need: Tiers Article; Reflect on the Voices of the Students, How are They Demonstrating the Need for Levels of Service?	The committee members reviewed and discussed the article <i>Rtl for Nurturing Giftedness: Implications for the Rtl School-Based Team</i> by Claire E. Hughes, and Karen Rollins.	
10. Mission: Revisit	<p>The committee continued to refine a mission statement and concluded the session by completing a draft mission statement.</p> <p>To see the committee's draft Definition, Program Mission, and Core Beliefs, click here.</p>	
11. Closing	<p>Group members were asked to provide written feedback of the second committee meeting. Members were provided materials to review before the next session. The book <i>Helping Gifted Children Soar</i> will be distributed to members for reading before the next meeting in January. Adrienne Somera stated there will be a link to articles on the Highly Capable Program website. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Next meeting: January 7, 2014 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Roeder Building</p>	