

Orange Unified School District
Gifted & Talented Education (GATE)
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Minutes

Virtually present: Shelley Chang, Antoinette Coe, Erin Flynn, Christine Gerges, Lisa Green, Becky Smith, Peter Wang, Raeanne Little, and Doreen Kearns.

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Raeanne Little, Administrator, Instructional Mentoring and Specialized Programs. This was the fourth and final GATE CAC meeting for the 2020-21 school year.

Welcome and Introductions

All who participated in the virtual meeting introduced themselves by name, and mentioned which school(s) their children attend.

Prior CAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the CAC meeting held on 3/15/21 were reviewed and approved.

Opening Discussion Items

The draft of the Elementary GATE Program Mission and Vision Statements was presented with changes to their goals as follows:

Mission: Challenging and developing the academic, social emotional and creative abilities of learners in the gifted program.

Vision: To provide student learning experiences with depth, complexity, novelty and acceleration to meet the needs of gifted and talented students.

GATE Cluster Groups

A plan to strengthen the instruction to students served in the GATE cluster group model was discussed, including differentiated support in the general education classroom.

- All elementary schools are asked to cluster GATE identified students in Grades 3-6
- Consider best practices in clustering configurations
- Identify teachers with a strong interest in differentiation to meet student needs
- Began a Cluster Teacher Professional Learning Committee (PLC) in 2021
- Planning for creating in house training for 2021-22 for all GATE cluster teachers.
- Focus areas for cluster groups include, challenge, flexibility, acceleration, interest, depth and complexity, and like minded peers

Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Funds

Parent input was shared on the use of these funds and included:

- The use of AVID tutors for specific learning skills that students may need help with
- Targeted learning – some students did not engage in virtual learning and need specific instruction
- The need for specific tutors for reading and math

- Allow teachers to work on what student needs are
- Technology programs cannot solve all the problems

Summer Programs

Various summer programs that are available to students either virtually, or in-person were presented and include the Accelerated Math Course which will be held virtually. Hands on classes of STEM/STEAM, instrumental music, performing arts, and English are being offered at the Middle School sites. The High Schools will offer credit recovery courses, original credit electives, and dual enrollment. Santiago College will offer a College for Kids Summer Program that is at no cost to families, with both in-person and virtual options. Core subject classes in reading, writing and math will be offered, along with enrichment classes and camps for Legos, guitar, robotics, animation, and performing arts.

Parent Questions

Parents inquired about the GATE testing facilitating this spring. Mrs. Little shared that the testing was done in person with small groups, and one-to-one. Qualifications were higher due to identification criteria changes. However in reviewing the overall testing qualifications data, it showed that students in Title I schools had the fewest GATE qualifications. Student retesting is available by parent request.

GATE Community Advisory Meetings for 2021-22

Parents gave suggestions for next school year's GATE CAC meetings that included:

- Continuing with the virtual meeting style
- Possibly returning to in-person meetings
- Continuing with the morning meeting schedule, or possibly an evening schedule to accommodate parents who work and may need baby sitters
- Having students participate in the meetings and share their GATE learning experiences
- Recording the meetings so parents who cannot attend will have access to the meeting contents

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.