

Minutes of NISD GT/Enrichment Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2009, @ Driggers Elem., 6901 Shadow Mist, San Antonio, TX. The GT Advisory Council meeting began at 5:32 with President Paul Langer presiding.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 21st meeting was included in tonight's handouts. The missing title to the handouts was "Connect Parents and Serve Students through Local GT Parent Groups" by Susan W. Sweeney. This correction will be made to the May minutes. Joanne Johnson moved that the May minutes be approved. A. Robertson seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in our meeting refreshment fund on 5/21/09 was \$21.68. Contributions since then were \$40.00. Total in the fund was \$61.68. Expenses this month were \$49.85, leaving a current balance of \$11.83. Priscilla Lurz explained that this money is used to purchase snacks for the Council meetings, and the funding source is donations from council attendees. The balance in the iGniTe fund on 4/04/09 was \$3,723.00. Expenses since then were \$139.20 for printing for the Bowling Fundraiser next month and \$301.70 for printing the GTEAC brochure. The balance in the iGniTe Fund as of 9/15/09 is \$3,282.10. The iGniTe fund is a subcategory of Northside's NEF grants program. You can give to the Northside Education Foundation and specify that your donation go to the iGniTe Fund. NEF and iGniTe funds are used to fund teacher grant proposals.

Welcome and Announcements

Paul Langer:

- Introduced the officers
- Thanked parents and teacher for coming
- Recognized many new parents attending for the first time
- Focused this meeting on communicating the structure and purpose of the GTEAC, how we serve our high ability and gifted students, and doing council housekeeping.
 - GTEAC Brochure, designed by Veronica Colon, includes our mission statement, the description and goals of three current committees, the iGniTe Fund, our monthly meeting dates, and a list of upcoming special events.
 - Priscilla Lurz added that the work of the three committees merges together in the spring when Paul presents the council's recommendations to NEIC.
 - One area we plan to work on this year is the development of accelerated math programs in grades K-5, rather than just in grade 5, so that high ability elementary math students in all grades work at their instructional level and their curriculum is aligned with the middle schools' Excel math program.
 - The work of the Gifted/Talented and Enrichment Advisory Council targets all Northside students, not just those identified as GT, and GTEAC members serve as advocates for students across the district.

Priscilla Lurz: talked about the mission and effectiveness of the Parent Advisory Council. The council is visible and listened to in the district because of this parent component.

- Many districts in Texas do not have the degree and range of services for high ability students that Northside provides. Often a gifted student has only the support of the homeroom teacher.
- This council has been effective in maintaining the integrity of Northside's GT and Enrichment programs, the array of services these provide to high ability students in grades K-12, and program funding.
- It keeps the district serving our high-ability learners, providing them the opportunity to make a year's growth in knowledge for a year's instructional time
- Some financial decisions are made at the local level, so it is important that we advocate for the G/T and Enrichment programs.

Handouts:

- Minutes for May meeting
- Article: "Smart Child Left Behind" by Tom Loveless and Michael J. Petrilli
- GTEAC Brochure in Spanish and English

Special Events:

October Bowling Extravaganza Fundraiser

- Laurie Freeze praised her assistants Beth Bath, M. Young and Veronica Colon.
- October 17th; 1-3 pm; Bandera Bowl; \$ 12.00 per person, includes shoe rental--\$7.00 profit per ticket
- Silent Auction—last year we had 9 items and made \$473 on them. This year we have 15 items already.

February Laser Quest Family Fun Night

- February 25th, 4—9 PM
- \$7.00 to play of which we get \$2.00 when patrons state they are with Northside. It was suggested that we make stickers for patrons to wear that say--: "I am with Northside." Or we could task someone to stand at the cashier's window and remind participants to say they are there with Northside.
- This year we are trying to add a restaurant component to Laser Quest so the family can eat as part of the evening. They can leave their name at Laser Quest, go to dinner, and return to Laser Quest. This might reduce waiting in line.
- Laser Quest will have more employees for the activity which will help move things along more quickly.

Dr. Folks' visit to our January meeting

- January 21, 2010 from 5:30-7:00 PM at Driggers Elem., 6901 Shadow Mist, San Antonio, TX.
- Last year's meeting with Dr. Folks was well attended and very productive.
- Dr. Folks will speak and then answer questions. We need to be prepared with our questions.
- Andy Greene remarked that Dr. Folks will probably talk about bond issues at this meeting because the district expects to seek voter approval for a new bond initiative in spring 2010. If GT has bond needs we should communicate those now. Priscilla Lurz explained how the GT program is integrated into bond money as the result of previous practices. That is, GT gets technology updates from bond money whenever campus updates are done. Also a full time GT and Enrichment Specialist is included in the basic package for each new school that opens.

Other Business:

Meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves and comment on their expectations and desires for the GTEAC, and each person had a chance to speak.

Throughout the meeting GT teacher Rose Mena translated for parents who needed Spanish.

Meeting attendees were asked to examine Northside's GT Program and the GTEAC websites and make suggestions on how these need to be improved or updated. This task might reside with the Public Relations committee.

This year's TAGT Conference will be in December in Houston. The GT Parents' Conference will be in March but we don't know the location. Check at the TAGT website, www.txgifted.org.

We may want to add membership and grants committees to our structure.

Grant related information will soon be included on our website.

Question: How are the Bowling Extravaganza tickets selling so far? None have sold as yet. Last year 95 % of ticket sales were at the door.

The council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next GT/Enrichment Advisory Council Meeting will be held at Driggers Elem. School on Thursday, October 15th, from 5:30—7:00 p.m. The plan for that meeting is to have a quick housekeeping session and then work in committees. There will be a bilingual person at each committee to translate if needed. Look over the description and focus of each committee and decide which one interests you. At the meeting we will set the coming year's goals for each committee.

Respectfully submitted by,

Minutes approved/disapproved

Mary Finch, Secretary

Paul Langer, President, GT/Enrichment Advisory Council
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