

# Minutes of NISD GT/Enrichment Advisory Council Meeting

**Thursday, October 15, 2009,** @ Driggers Elem., 6901 Shadow Mist, San Antonio, TX. The GT Advisory Council meeting began at 5:35 with President Paul Langer presiding.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was included in tonight's handouts. Esther Chavez moved that the September minutes be approved. Denise Lopez seconded the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** The previous balance in our meeting refreshment fund was \$11.83. Contributions since then were \$20.00. Total in the fund was \$31.83. Expenses this month were \$32.97, leaving a current negative balance of -\$1.14. Treasurer Delia Molina explained that this money is used to purchase snacks for the Council meetings, and the funding source is donations from council attendees. The previous balance in the iGniTe fund on 9/15/09 was \$3,282.10. Fundraiser ticket sales brought in \$48.00. The current balance in the iGniTe Fund as of 10/14/09 is \$3,330.10. President Paul Langer explained that the iGniTe fund is a part of Northside's NEF Grants program. iGniTe funds are used to fund grant proposals submitted by GT and Enrichment Specialists at all levels.

## Welcome and Announcements

### **Paul Langer:**

- Introduced the officers
- Welcomed parents and teachers for coming—forty-one individuals signed in for this meeting
- Recognized many new parents attending for the first time
- Displayed the GTEAC Brochure, available on the sign-in table, and went over its contents as a summary of our mission, meeting schedule and committee organization.
- Format of this meetings is as follows:
  - Welcome
  - Announcements and Handouts
  - Minutes
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Fundraising Report from Laurie Freeze re: Bowling Extravaganza this coming Saturday
  - Committee Work

### **Priscilla Lurz:**

- Talked about the mission and effectiveness of the Parent Advisory Council. This council has been effective in maintaining the integrity of Northside's GT and Enrichment programs, the array of services provided to high ability students in grades K-12, and program funding.
- We are looking for the next GTEAC President. Paul Langer has served three years and will be stepping down. The position usually is filled by a person attending these GTEAC meetings.
- The NAGC—National Association for Gifted Children—is piloting a virtual convention this year. You can participate through your home computer. The cost is \$99.00 for non-members and \$70.00 for NAGC members. A group of interested parents can get together at one house and split the expenses. The website is <http://www.nagc.org/nagcvirtualconvention.aspx> . Titles of some parent sessions are included in the handouts.
- Also in the handouts for this meeting:
  - Agenda and September Minutes
  - Flyer for Bowling Extravaganza and Silent Auction
  - Article: "The boy aged two with Einstein's IQ: Why little Oscar is Britain's youngest boy to be accepted into Mensa," by Julie Moulton and Tamara Cohen, Internet, 10/10/09.

### **Paul Langer:**

Talked about committees and an example of an issue GTEAC could explore through the Program Development Committee, Paul Langer brought up the National Merit Scholar Program. Attendees at previous meetings have asked why Northside doesn't have more students identified as National Merit Scholars.

- Students take the PSAT, which NISD pays for. While it counts in the Junior year, students can take it earlier, as a test prep. Early testing is not routinely paid for by NISD.
- Those students with the highest scores are invited to participate in the next level of evaluation/consideration.
- SAT test-prep opportunities are provided by a variety of campus, district and online resources
- National Merit Semifinalists advance to Finalist standing by submitting SAT scores that confirm the earlier PSAT/NMSQT performance, having an outstanding academic record, and being endorsed and recommended by a high school official.

The GTEAC Program Development Committee could explore ways to support students during the identification process by increasing student and parent awareness of the program, increasing student participation at each level, and increasing student PSAT and SAT performance. The goal of this activity would be to increase the number of National Merit Scholars identified in Northside Independent School District.

Assist/mentor interested students through all steps of the identification process.

Assist students with the letter writing

Assist with SAT test prep, and test prep expenses where needed.

Some challenges GTEAC would face include:

- Determining how a program to increase National Merit Scholars in NISD could be implemented.
- Accessing the information needed in an appropriate manner.
- Getting information to parents following district guidelines.
- Providing the needed services
- Providing financial assistance.

Attendees broke into two committees—Program Development and Fundraising—for the remainder of the meeting time.

At the end of the meeting **Saturday's Bowling Extravaganza Fundraiser** was discussed briefly. Volunteers are needed to work at the door, where most of the ticket sales occur, and to help set up the silent auction. It will have many more items this year.

Throughout the meeting an attendee translated for parents who needed Spanish.

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, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Finch, Secretary

Minutes approved/disapproved

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Paul Langer, President, GT/Enrichment Advisory Council  
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