

**Fontana Unified School District
GATE Parent Advisory Council Meeting
August 17, 2009**

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Eva Fritsch at 6:02 P.M. with introductions of the group's officers
 - a. Chairperson – Kathy Garcia
 - b. Vice Chairperson – Nancy Menendez
 - c. Secretary – Joan Laiman
 - d. Historian – Isabel Costello
 - e. Presenter Coordinator – Silvia Zumaya
2. Minutes from the June 15, 2009 meeting were read. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Carmen Lozano (Tokay) and seconded by Christine Omar (Sequoia).
3. Eva Fritsch gave a presentation on the implementation of the GATE Program in Fontana USD for 2009/2010
 - a. Each school has been asked to assemble a brochure on the GATE program at their site.
 - b. Characteristics of gifted students may include:
 - i. Precociousness
 - ii. Asynchronous development
 - iii. Intense about things in which they are interested
 - iv. Sensitive
 - v. Thrive on complexity – but notice inconsistencies
 - vi. Many different interests, may have a hard time picking a career path
 - vii. Perfectionists
 - viii. Large vocabulary
 - c. Gifted elementary students may:
 - i. Wide variety of interests
 - ii. Advanced sense of humor
 - iii. Highly verbal on subjects of interest
 - iv. Learn quickly with minimal practice
 - v. Resist details and long assignments
 - vi. Prefer their work versus the teacher's work
 - vii. Thrive on complexity and problem-solving
 - viii. Prefer to work alone; play with 1-2 friends

- ix. Long attention span on their favorite subjects
- x. Strong sense of justice
- xi. Love to experiment with ideas/methods
- xii. Creative and non-conforming
- d. Gifted adolescents may:
 - i. Lack needed study and organizational skills
 - ii. Find little “new” to learn in high school
 - iii. Appear to slow down in learning
 - iv. Deal with the reality of being younger than their preferred peers
 - v. Feel pressure to perform
 - vi. Girls struggle with femininity versus being smart
 - vii. Desire acceptance more than learning
- e. Differentiation in elementary education features:
 - i. Acceleration
 - ii. Complexity
 - iii. Depth
 - iv. Challenge
 - v. Creativity
- f. Differentiation at the high school level may involve:
 - i. Advanced Placement (AP) courses for college level credit, or
 - ii. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program
- g. GATE Plan:
 - i. Was approved for 3 years, and is to be updated this year
 - ii. Includes eight sections with plans on:
 - 1. Program design
 - 2. Identification
 - 3. Curriculum and instruction
 - 4. Social and emotional
 - 5. Professional development
 - 6. Parent/community involvement
 - 7. Program assessments
 - 8. Budget
- 4. Question and Answer Session – Eva Fritsch then answered questions:
 - a. Identification of GATE students – Alma Loza (Redwood and AB Miller) raised the concern shared by many parents that the Naglieri test is too stringent, keeping many students out of the GATE program. Many students exhibit most, if not all, of the characteristics that were presented earlier, yet are not qualifying for GATE

because they do not get a high enough score on the test. Parents would like for there to be other ways to nominate students for GATE.

- i. Parents may request IQ tests for their children, but must pay for it themselves. Azusa Pacific University was suggested as a place that might do this testing.
 - b. What is the role of the GATE parent representative at the school site?
 - i. It depends on whether the school has a separate GATE parents meeting or makes GATE part of the School Site Council
 - ii. The parent representative acts as a go-between/information provider for other parents – bringing information from the District GATE Parent Advisory Committee back to the school site.
5. Role of the Parent Advisory Committee – Chairperson Kathy Garcia discussed the role of this committee:
 - a. Our goal is to help parents be advocates for their children
 - b. Visit school sites and bring feedback on the GATE program in our schools
6. Chairperson Kathy Garcia then led a discussion of topics that parents would like to have covered at meetings during the next school year. Suggestions included:
 - a. Update on state funding
 - b. Curriculum
 - c. Ideas for parents on how to work with their gifted children
 - d. Websites and other information to challenge our kids
 - e. Summer institute information
 - f. Guidance on how to help high school students choose their classes
 - g. Tools to help parents talk to teachers/administration, to effectively communicate “here is what I want for my child.”
 - h. Other options if you feel that your child’s needs are not being met (charter schools, etc.)
 - i. Representatives from each level (elementary, middle, high schools)
 - j. Updates from the school representatives
7. It was suggested that the teleparent message be delivered twice before each meeting, once 3-4 days prior and once the night before, to allow parents to plan their schedules.
8. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. was made by Yvette Guerrero (West Randall), seconded by Alma Loza (Redwood and AB Miller).
9. Next meeting: the next GATE Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held September 21st in the JD Piazza Center. Parents will be notified by a Teleparent message.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Laiman, Secretary