

Fontana Unified School District
GATE Parent Advisory Council Meeting
September 21, 2009

Minutes

1. Vice Chairperson Nancy Menendez led the icebreaker "Know Your Skittles".
2. Chairperson Kathy Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. with introductions of The group's officers

Chairperson – Kathy Garcia
Vice Chairperson – Nancy Menendez
Secretary – Joan Laiman (absent)
Historian - Isabel Costello
Presenter Coordinator – Silvia Zumaya
District Gate Advisor – Eva Fritsch

Announcement was made that the Spanish translator called in sick and no other translator was available. Vice Chairperson Nancy Menendez will help translate.

Ms. Fritsch apologized to those parents that were expecting a call back from her regarding their children not being identified as GATE. She lost the list with their names and phone numbers and asked that they please give her the information once more so she may call them.

Minutes from the August 17, 2009 meeting were read. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Carmen Lozano from Tokay Elementary and seconded by Susana Ortiz from Redwood Elementary.

3. Ms. Fritsch gave an update on funding. On August 12, 2009 the state gave the approval for K-12 final budget. It cut GATE funds by 19.8% throughout the state of California. Original figure of 55.16 million dollars is now at 42.22 million dollars. The district and site budgets for GATE is \$288,893. Schools receive monies based on GATE identified population. The district makes adjustments to amount distributed to school sites if total GATE funding calculates to less than \$1,500 at any schools. The district swept some money under Tier 3 funding. District has the flexibility to do this with tier 3 funding.

The next four years will be under tight stringent budgets. Many schools have chosen to combine their GATE funds in SBCP (School Based Coordinated Programs). The district has stated that GATE funds must be used for GATE Programs. Check the SPSA (Single Plan for Student Achievement) for GATE goal with the expenditures.

The following questions/clarifications arose after Ms. Fritsch's update:

How would we see the monies being used at sites? You could see it in any one or more of the following ways:

- a. GATE coordinator (teacher) receives \$1,500 stipend.
- b. Professional Development (attending workshops, CAG conferences, training)
- c. Within the school day (special programs)???
- d. After school enrichment (field trips, presenters, classes, materials)

How were the dollar amounts received by sites figured to reach a \$1,500 minimum to pay for coordinator? The calculation formula is not the best

Ms. Fritsch is comparing CST scores and Naglieri looking at 33 out of 38 and Advanced /Advanced on the most recent CST's to see if any additional students will qualify.

The district graded the test in house and may have made human error. The test grading is being reviewed.

My A question was asked concerning allowing high achievers into GATE activities. achievers to the GATE class is this okay? According to California Education this is allowed.

Parent – Teacher Conferences - A reminder that conferences are coming up for elementary and middle schools at the end of October.

All elementary schools differ slightly with about 15 minutes of one on one time with the teacher.

Not much time to ask questions so parents must go in prepared. If parents have issues they must go in ready to address them. Ask how your child is being serviced, how is the curriculum differentiated? Take CST scores ask how can my child move up(i.e.: basic to proficient to advanced)? Inquire how your child's work differs from the other students. If 15 minutes is not enough ask for another meeting.

Middle Schools do conferences in one of 2 ways:

Since a student may have several teachers conferences might be held in a bigger multipurpose room either teacher led or student led.

Student led conferences will include student having a portfolio that includes projects and papers they have done. Academic, behavior and future goals will be listed as well as areas of strengths and improvement. Also included would be CST scores and any extra activities.

The information is given by the student. Teachers are available to address questions from parents.

These and other tips are suggested on the parent-teacher conference hand out.

High Schools do not have conferences. You must call counselors to make an appointment. Class work must be given at the depth and complexity of the GATE student.

Ask about Parent Zangle which will allow you to check attendance, health issues, grades. Pass code must be issued to access the program.

4. Ms. Fritsch showed how to access GATE information (meeting minutes, site coordinators, newsletters) on the district website. Users should type in GATE in the search field which will take them to a list of GATE items.

5. Questions and answers:
What is the role of the GATE coordinator?
They serve as the GATE site advisor.
They coordinate tutoring, schedule testing, attend GATE advisory district meetings, hold GATE parent meetings.
Serve as a liaison between individual teachers.

6. Next meeting Date Monday, October 26, 2009

7. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. was made by Carmen Lozano - Tokay Elementary, seconded by Robb Lash – Sequoia Middle School