

**Fontana Unified School District
GATE Parent Advisory Council Meeting
October 26, 2009**

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Kathy Garcia at 6:05 P.M. with an introduction of the evening's first presenter, Dr. Richard Stedry, who provided an update of the district's budget.
 - a. During the 2008/2009 school year, \$17.0 million in state funding was cut from the district, causing the beginning of the 2009/2010 year to start in a more difficult financial position.
 - b. Additional cuts have occurred as a result of the state's 2009/2010 budget.
 - c. Student attendance in school matters! The formula for state funding is based upon Average Daily Attendance (ADA), so it is important for our children to be in school for both funding and educational reasons.
 - d. Dr. Stedry anticipates more state funding may be cut in 2010.
2. Minutes from the September 21, 2009 meeting were read. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Carmen Lozano (Tokay) and seconded by Alma Loza (Redwood and AB Miller).
3. The opening activity for the evening was discussed. These activities have been presented at the meetings to give parents ideas for activities to do with their children at home.
 - a. Parents were asked if they enjoyed the activity and wanted to continue these at future meetings.
 - b. From a show of hands, about an equal number indicated that they wanted the activity time to continue versus not continue.
 - c. One parent expressed concern that the activity cost money that took funds away from other priorities, but Ms. Fritsch explained that was not really an issue as costs are minimal.
4. Eva Fritsch gave a presentation on CST results for GATE students compared to:
 - a. San Bernardino County and California state results
 - b. The student population at each school site
 - c. Parent concerns raised in response to this presentation:
 - i. One parent of a 3rd grader at Hemlock said that there is no accountability, that the teacher does not provide differentiated instruction and that the GATE site coordinator indicated that the parent's "expectations were too high."

- ii. A parent of students at Fontana HS said that they talked to the guidance counselor, and that they didn't know anything about GATE.
 - iii. One parent asked if a student can be removed from the GATE program once they have been identified. Ms. Fritsch responded that the student could only be removed if the parent makes the request in writing to the District GATE program office; the teacher, principal or other school staff cannot remove students from the GATE program.
 - d. Parents were encouraged to get involved at their school site, to keep in contact with the teachers and principal to make sure their students are getting the services that they need.
- 5. Art Depot – Courtney Hodnick and Raquel Diaz presented information about the City of Fontana's Art Depot, which develops programs to fill the gap in cultural/arts education. There are a variety of visual and cultural arts programs for children and adults; information is available at the fontanarecreation.org website or in the city's Activities, Services and Programs guide published quarterly. Parents wishing to get on the mailing list for the Art Depot (e- or regular mail) should call the Art Depot at 356-7185. A few of the programs offered include:
 - a. Open Studio Program – offered on Fridays from 2-3:30 and 4-5:30 at a cost of \$3 per student per week. Includes an art history lesson and art lesson, with all materials included.
 - b. Art Classes at Lewis Library – Wednesdays 4-5 P.M. for toddlers to grade 3, or Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 P.M. for grades 4 and up; free art lesson.
 - c. Steelworkers Auditorium (adjacent to Lewis Library) is open for any District-approved event for free, with only a minimal cost for staffing.
- 6. Question and Answer Session – Eva Fritsch then answered questions:
 - a. Do teachers get education on how to educate GATE students? Yes, through the district and also through continuing education opportunities.
- 7. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. was made by Alma Loza (Redwood and AB Miller), seconded by Maria Berumen.
- 8. Next meeting: the next GATE Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held January 11th, 2010 in the JD Piazza Center. Parents will be notified by a Teleparent message.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Laiman, Secretary