

**Fontana Unified School District  
GATE Parent Advisory Council Meeting  
December 8, 2008**

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Brandy Segal at 6:05 P.M.
  - a. Brandy began the meeting with an explanation that FUSD is forming several parent advisory committees to foster increased parental involvement in their children's education.
  - b. Introduction of the GATE Parent Advisory Committee members followed – Nancy Menendez, Vice-Chairperson; Historian, Isabel Costello; Presenter Coordinator, Laura Parisi; Secretary, Joan Laiman.
2. Reading of minutes from last meeting.
  - a. Minutes from the September 22, 2008 meeting were read.
  - b. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Petra Ortega, and seconded by Silvia Zumaya.
  - c. It was noted that meetings minutes, agendas and tele-parent announcements should be translated into Spanish.
3. Laura Parisi discussed that books about gifted children were available for parents to borrow. She will coordinate making books available and checking them out to parents, for return at the next meeting. Eva Fritsch added that she will look for bilingual or Spanish materials to include in these resources.
4. Review of Bylaws
  - a. A draft of proposed bylaws for the Parent Advisory Committee was distributed. Brandy Segal divided those attending into 3 groups to review each of the three pages of this draft. The pages and comments were then discussed by the entire group.
  - b. Page 1: one grammatical change to the first sentence under heading "Procedures and Standing Rules" to now read as follows: The Fontana Unified School ***District has*** established ... (***bold italics font denotes changes***)
  - c. Page 2:
    - i. Under Article V – Meetings, Section II: Members shall be individually notified approximately one week prior to each meeting ***in writing and by phone, in both English and Spanish.***
    - ii. Under Article VI – Officers, Section I: The GATE District Advisory Committee shall nominate officers during the ***last*** meeting ***of the year.***

(Motion to change wording made by Randi Reddett, seconded by Maria Berumen.)

- iii. Much discussion ensued about the frequency of meetings, at both the district and school level:
  1. At the district level, Article V, Section I states that there shall be a minimum of five regular meetings of the membership during the academic year. This means that there could be more than five meetings, including potential meetings/events/programs with speakers of interest to parents and students. (Motion to adopt a minimum of five regular meetings per year made by Maria Berumen, seconded by Randi Reddett.)
  2. The purpose of the district GATE Parent Advisory Committee is to educate parents so that they can go back to their school site and either work with School Site Council as the GATE parent representative or form a school GATE Parent Advisory Committee.
  3. At the school site level, parents are encouraged to work with their school site GATE coordinator or principal.
- d. Page 3: accepted as written.
- e. Motion to adopt the bylaws as presented with noted corrections was made by Yvette Medrano, seconded by Mary Lynn Arriola.
5. Parent Involvement – Brandy Segal stated that information presented in the District GATE Parent Advisory Committee can be taken back to each school site and adopted for use there, including newsletters, bylaws, presentations, etc.
6. California Associated for the Gifted (CAG) – Michelle Stevens asked if the district would pay for parents to go to the CAG conference, as had been done in prior years. Ms. Fritsch said that if parents wanted to go, they would have to make arrangements on their own and then perhaps be reimbursed after the conference. In the past, parents signed up to go but did not attend, causing the district to waste public funds on registration and bus chartering fees.
7. District Update:
  - a. Ms. Fritsch has asked each school for their GATE budget and information on what services they are providing to GATE students. To date, only about one-third of schools in the district have responded.
  - b. A question was raised about how/when students are tested to be identified as GATE students. Currently, all students are tested in second grade and students in other grades are tested as necessary. The district is looking at possibly using a computer-based test in the future instead of paper-based, but the concern was that computer-readiness not be an issue for students taking the test.

- c. Parent workshops – anyone having suggestions for topics for future parent workshops should submit them to Laura Parisi.
  - d. A question was raised about the process of determining where 5<sup>th</sup> graders go to middle school. The middle school is determined by district boundaries as all schools have GATE programs, though parents can request that their child be sent to the GATE magnet program at Sequoia Middle School through the intra-district transfer process in January. Parents are responsible for transporting their students to Sequoia Middle School; no district transportation is provided.
  - e. A question was raised about how GATE funds are allocated to the schools. Ms. Fritsch responded that funds are allocated on a per capita (per student) basis, but each school determines how funds are spent through their School Site Council.
  - f. A suggestion was made to provide a district-wide outing for GATE students sometime before the end of the school year.
- 8. A motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8 P.M. was made by Michelle Stevens, seconded by Joseph Reyna.
  - 9. Next meeting: the next GATE Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held on March 9, 2009 at 6 P.M. in the Building #1 Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Laiman, Secretary