

APP TASK FORCE MINUTES

April 19, 2001

7:00 PM

Jane Fellner, Chair

Attendance: Linda Carlson, Jane Fellner, Norm Hollingshead, Heather Holmback, Sally James, Marian Sussman, Bob Vaughan, Spring Zoog

The minutes from the March meeting were approved with no changes.

GARFIELD PRINCIPAL SEARCH

The Garfield principal search interview committee completed their interviews, but June Rimmer has called them to a meeting this evening. Superintendent Olchefske is planning to announce the new Garfield principal before the end of April.

SCHOOL BOARD ACTIVITIES

The school board has decided not to change their meeting times so there will still be one evening meeting per month. There has been some discussion about altering the agenda and scheduling work sessions at the meetings.

HIGHLY CAPABLE REVIEW PROCESS

Jane brought some articles from the literature review being used in the Highly Capable Review process.

Surveys are being mailed out to all SSD parents on or around April 26, 2001. The survey includes questions relating to the highly capable programs. Parents should fill out and return the survey as soon as possible to ensure that their input is included in the review process. Parents are also encouraged to go to district website (<http://www.seattleschools.org>) and click on the "rest of the story" hyperlink for "Review of Programs for High Performing Students" to give further input on the Highly Capable programs and comments on the Highly Capable Review Process. We discussed how the term "high performing" students, used on the website and elsewhere, may be confusing to those people who may not know that this is a district alternative for "highly capable."

The results of the review process are scheduled to be presented to the school board on May 23, 2001. Some parents have expressed concern that it will be hard to properly conduct the Highly Capable Review process to fit the current timeline.

SCHOOL REPORTS

LOWELL:

Spring Zoog reported that Lowell has 2 teacher positions open. Teresa Roth has been hired 1/2 time to help all teachers, primarily with handling the diversity in math levels.

The teachers are continuing meetings to look at standards, class size, math for high performers, and the 5-year vision for the school. They are prioritizing needs and will start working on specific topics.

9WMS:

Norm Hollingshead reported that the Gates grant team has had several interesting meetings with a lot of dialog. They have been trying to narrow their focus for the grant. It is difficult because of the wide variety of programs at WMS to satisfy all the needs that the Gates grant could address. The BLT has been helping in this arena. Norm is optimistic about the process and the outcome because of the great rapport among the teachers across the whole school.

The APP and Spectrum teachers have been invited to a meeting with Dr. Rimmer on April 26 for the Highly Capable Review Process. Though some teachers have been feeling like they might have to defend themselves, it was noted that the meeting should be an opportunity for the teachers to talk to district personnel about the positives and negatives of the program.

GARFIELD:

There was no representative from Garfield at the meeting.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Bob gave a report on APP eligibility for next year. There were 2725 applicants for Highly Capable Programs this year. Of those, 255 new students were found eligible for APP (including appeals). The ethnic breakdown of these students is as follows: 64% Caucasian, 25% Asian, 4% African American, 4% Hispanic, 1% Native American and 5% undeclared. Gender breakdown is 53% male and 47% female. All eligible students who choose to enter APP will be placed, except possibly some 6th graders at WMS, where there will be 4 sections of APP next year.

To encourage more diversity in those who choose to apply to and enroll in APP, it was suggested that we make available to prospective parents a list of current parents willing to be contacted. The list would indicate the ethnicity and gender of the children so prospective parents could make contacts to get information relevant to their child's situation. To have more diversity in the teaching staff for the Highly Capable Programs, it was noted that the school district should help so Lowell and WMS don't encounter problems that would come with trying to recruit from other schools. Parents could also alert teachers to opportunities in the Highly Capable Programs. Minority student teachers could be specifically sought.

It was suggested that there be a way to credit schools for preparing kids to be eligible for the highly capable programs, to help alleviate the concern that schools are reluctant to lose their highly capable students.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The remaining task force meetings for the 2000-2001 school year are: May 17th and June 14th. The focus of these meetings has not yet been determined.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Submitted by:

Heather Holmback, APP Task Force Secretary