

## APP TASK FORCE MINUTES

May 17, 2001

7:00 PM

Jane Fellner, Chair

Attendance: Kelly Bradford, Linda Carlson, Alex Ginn, Jane Fellner, Heather Holmback, Marissa LaMadrid, Dorothy Neville, AJ Skurdal, Marian Sussman, Katherine Triandafilou, Bob Vaughan

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

## SCHOOL REPORTS

### GARFIELD:

Marilyn Day, Garfield's newly appointed principal, attended the PTSA meeting at Garfield last week. Jane reported that while people were unhappy with the principal selection process, they were supporting Marilyn Day as Garfield's principal. She has experience at Garfield and as principal of WMS, which has similar programs to Garfield.

12 teachers and other staff members are leaving Garfield at the end of this year. There is a large effort to find replacements for the science teachers who are leaving and there is a hope that more science courses can be offered. There is also a search for a new AP European history teacher.

The district-wide AP exams have just concluded at Garfield. More than 700 Seattle School District students took the exams.

### WMS:

Superintendent Olchefske spoke at Washington on Tuesday, May 15. He talked about the renovation planned for Washington as well as the search for a new principal. He said that there could be a committee to act in an advisory capacity, but that it was his job to appoint a new principal. There are no known candidates at this time.

A letter was sent home about how the I-728 money was to be spent at Washington. This included extra reading classes, LA/SS blocks for all 7th and 8th graders, and extra honors classes for students in the regular program. Jane reported that WMS did not receive a lot of feedback in general, but there were comments that it was unclear how it would benefit the APP and Spectrum students at Washington. Several parents expressed the view that they should have asked for input up front rather than making a fairly detailed proposal and then putting parents in the position where they would have to object to changes that would benefit other students. The school intends to send out more information and have a meeting on the proposal.

### LOWELL:

Spring Zoog had Jane report that the activities concerning standards, class size, future planning, etc. are progressing. While no math specialist was hired, Teresa Roth has been hired 1/2 time for tutoring and support for all teachers. Hal is sharing his job as principal with Margie Cates for the remainder of the year. Lowell has hired two new teachers from among many good candidates. There will be two new 4th grade teachers and one new 2nd grade teacher and Spring will move to 5th grade. To accommodate the additional classes, one room currently housing the YMCA will be used.

## COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Bob reported the numbers for next year's APP classes at Lowell: 1 - 1st grade; 2 - 2nd grades; 1 - 2/3 grade split; 3 - 3rd grades; 5 - 4th grades; and 4 - 5th grades. There will be 16 teachers and class size is expected to be around 22 to 25.

Math issues remain high on the highly capable program agenda, especially math disparities. Bob will be meeting with Lowell teachers on the May 18 teacher in-service day and will give a report next month.

## HIGHLY CAPABLE REVIEW PROCESS

Jane gave some highlights of the recently-completed highly capable review: (1) re-examine the testing process for APP to try to get more underrepresented groups into the program, (2) have Spectrum in every school with the school deciding how

to accommodate the qualifying students, (3) abolish district set-aside seats for Spectrum, (4) give every teacher training in teaching highly capable students, (5) have more AP courses at high school in science. The major changes to the programs would begin in the 2002-2003 school year. Jane expressed dismay with many aspects of the highly capable review process and results. We discussed some of the literature that the review committee looked at and talked about issues, such as: (1) grade skipping vs. Spectrum, (2) ways to change the perception that "highly capable" is synonymous with "elitist," including changing the way we talk about the students and the program, (3) problems with having every teacher have to incorporate gifted education into their classroom, (4) suggestions that principals receive more funds to accommodate the new Spectrum students at their schools, and (5) methods to evaluate the progress of students in APP and Spectrum.

There is a meeting scheduled on May 19 to present the results of the review process to parents. It is anticipated that there will be a fairly large turnout of parents who have concerns about the process and the results.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

The remaining Task Force meeting for the 2000-2001 school year is June 14th. The focus of this meeting will be to discuss the Highly Capable review results as well as elect Task Force officers for next year. All those who like to take minutes are encouraged to attend.

The meeting adjourned around 9:30.

Submitted by:

Heather Holmback, APP Task Force Secretary