

Suffolk Public Schools
Gifted Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025
The College & Career Academy at Pruden
6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Call to order: 6:05 Katie Seibel, Chair

Board Members In Attendance:

Katie Seibel, Ashley Kelley Twine, Darlene Symborski, Duanne Hoffer-Foster, Kathleen Coyne, Kristan Pettiford, Rachel Lugo, Ryan Karle

Board Members Absent: Christina Havlin, Phan Everly, Cassidy Lewis, Krista Gilmore, Elizabeth Joyner, Juliette Thompson, Sylvia Bond, Kayla Pennington, Jennifer Cauthen, Jessica Coltz, Nicole Barnes, Bonnie Bradshaw

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Ryan Karle moved to amend the minutes to include the correct numbers of attendees according to the November 18th attendance. This motion was seconded by Ashley Twine. Kristan Pettiford moved to accept the minutes with the above changes and change the document format

Gifted Education Updates (Dr. Keisha Melvin)

- Elementary: Teachers are gearing up for the referral period. Screening will be held in March and April. This includes nominations for kindergarten and first grade talent pool and open referral for the QUEST program.
- Middle: Teachers are including logic questions within cross curricular planning and are establishing good collaboration with teachers and parents. History teachers are utilizing the history trunks and science teachers are focused on cycles.
- High School:
 - The deadline for summer residential governor's school was January 17th. Only 1 applicant completed their application. The board discussed issues with student interest, and format of the application process.
 - The board discussed better means of sharing information with the public.
 - Including more gifted announcements via Suffolk community engagement.
 - Asking guidance department to share this information to parents of gifted students.
 - Members and non members were encouraged to address the school board regarding concerns with communications.

Old Business

- Election of 2024-2025 Officers
 - Ryan Karle was nominated to serve as secretary, seconded by Kathleen Coyne.
 - Unanimous vote: Yes
 - Katie Seibel was nominated as chair. Nomination was seconded by Ryan Karle.
 - Unanimous Vote: Yes
- Local Plan Discussion
 - Board discussed possible amendments to the local gifted plan.

- Discussion on the gifted plan was tabled for the meeting on March 17th.
- Kristan Pettiford suggested a presentation on data regarding concerns with the local gifted plan by board members. This data is available from the November 2024 school Board meeting and will be shared during the March 17th meeting. **New Business**

- Community Program Planning

- The community program is scheduled May 19th meeting
- The board discussed the theme for the community program:
 - The career fair theme from last year worked well, however, attendance was poor. The board discussed pushing communication out to parents via facebook and community engagement.
 - The Board will continue to discuss the plan for the career fair during the March 17th meeting.
 - Board members were encouraged to find volunteers willing to speak.

Meeting Adjourned by Katie Seibel at 7:36.