

# **FBISD GT PAC General Meeting**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

### **Meeting Details:**

**Date:** May 11, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom Meetings

### **Introduction and Welcome**

#### **Presented by Wendy Pennings, President**

Wendy Pennings welcomed everyone and reminded members to complete the attendance form. Any additional questions or comments are to be emailed to [fbisdgtpac@gmail.com](mailto:fbisdgtpac@gmail.com).

### **GT Department Update**

#### **Presented by Dr. Laurie Westphal, Director of the GT Dept., FBISD**

- **GT Audit**

Dr. Westphal presented an update of the GT Audit that had been ongoing, and which was presented by the auditors to the FBISD Board on May 9, 2022. After the auditors' presentation, There were a few questions from the board which were answered by Dr. Westphal. The presentation is available for viewing on the FBISD Board of Trustees website at [Board of Trustees / Current Board Meeting Live Stream \(fortbendisd.com\)](#). The GT Audit is available for viewing on the FBISD GT PAC website. Dept received preliminary results in December. A key highlight of the GT Audit is that, since the audit has been ongoing for a few months, some of the recommendations that were easily implementable have already been implemented.

- **Surveys**

Dr. Westphal provided links for members to complete 2 surveys:

- To ascertain interest from current GT PAC members who would like to also serve on the PAC in the 2022-2023 school year.
- To solicit feedback from current GT PAC members on the accomplishments and activities completed this year and to provide recommendations for future years.

## GT PAC Implementation Team Updates

Cathy Hunter was unable to join today's meeting so Wendy Pennings presented on behalf of the Implementation Team. Overall, there were no new updates.

### **Implementation Team Subcommittee Reports:**

- **Communications Workstream:** Presented by Wendy Pennings

The subcommittee recently had a meeting. Their main task has been to refine their output. They have looked at all of the quarterly reports that will go out to the GT community. One of the key differences is that more communication will go out, not just to parents but also to students. For example, in the 2022-2023 school year a Schoology group will be started for all GT students in any given school that everyone in the group can use to communicate with GT Students.

- **Student Identification/Program Expansion Workstream:** Presented by Crystal Wilson

This subcommittee is currently looking at the GT Identification matrix to make sure that the format is easily understood- by all stakeholders such as parents, teachers, students, counselors etc. They are also looking to see how quickly this can be implemented.

- **GT Representation Workstream:** Presented by Kim Hitsch

This subcommittee has completed work this past year, with the team meeting weekly. They are currently looking at the GT Task Map. The GT Representation goals are on the task map. The format is getting ready for presentation and is ready to implement in the district. Some changes are coming imminently. For example, they identified that the referral window is too early in the school year and therefore most teachers don't know their students well enough to make referrals. Henceforth, all teachers are being encouraged to refer students for the following school year. Wendy Pennings brought up the example of her friend who is a teacher in one of the FBISD elementary and who is very excited to be able to refer her current students for the following school year.

- **GT Elementary Exploratory Workstream:** Presented by Dr. Laurie Westphal

This subcommittee has have met in the last month. They have completed the exploratory phase and are currently planning for elementary programming. This workstream may not be necessarily seen next year as they have completed the exploratory phase and are ready to implement.

- **Secondary Services Workstream:** Presented by Aisha Holmes

The bulk of the work done by this workstream has been to develop new courses for secondary students. For example, Innovation Lab is now being offered to students in the middle school level to the 2 targeted campuses – Fort Settlement Middle School and Sartatia Middle School. These campuses were selected for the pilot on the basis of their high GT enrolment. One of the challenges achieved was to build student interest for the following school year.

## **2022-2023 GT PAC Executive Board Elections**

The GT PAC Executive Board for 2022-2023 was presented as follows:

President: Monica Willis

President-Elect: Sonia Linnell

Parliamentarian: Tina Ojo

Secretary: Deepa Vaidyanath

Wendy Pennings presented each of the incoming GT PAC Executive Board Members and invited them to introduce themselves.

## **GT PAC Subcommittee Updates:**

- GT Parent Symposium Subcommittee: Presented by Monica Willis

During their last meeting, this subcommittee discussed and finalized future plans. So they did not meet today.

- GT Parent Engagement Subcommittee: Presented by Kim Hibschi

This subcommittee hosted the new parent meeting on May 3, 2022 via Zoom Meetings. It was very well received with about 135 people attending. Kim Hibschi, Wendy Pennings and Monica Willis presided this meeting and made a presentation and answered questions asked by GT parents. There were breakout meetings presided by Kim Hibschi for the Elementary Level, Monica Willis at the Secondary level, and Wendy Pennings for Twice Exceptional students. There was honest parent interaction with a lot of ground covered. This also seemed like a great showcase for the GT PAC going forward.

- GT Family Resources Subcommittee: Presented by Wendy Pennings

This subcommittee has made a lot of progress evaluating the information under the FBISD GT Resource page. Currently, they have starting to discuss ideas to make the website listing more user friendly and attractive. The subcommittee will meet today for a short time to discuss next-steps.

## **Tasks for GT PAC Members**

All GT PAC Members were asked to start recruiting GT PAC representatives for the 2022-2023 school year. This would be valuable especially if the 3 available positions were not filled. Members are requested to talk about how participating in the GT PAC was engaging and useful.

## **Resource of interest**

Wendy Pennings presented the website GiftedGuru.com for the GT resource of the month. This is a website hosted by Lisa Van Gemert. This website provides articles and advice for GT parents, as well as resource references for toys and books.

## **Conclusion**

Wendy Pennings ended by thanking all members for the work done in 2021-2022, participating and contributing to the GT PAC.

The meeting moved to subcommittees.