

Minutes for September 20, 2016 Gifted Parent Council Meeting

6:05 PM - Welcome and introductions - Dr. Christine Palumbo

Dr. Palumbo shared the Gifted Parent Council's Mission, group focus, and chain of command for addressing student issues in the district (see below):

Mission of Lakewood City Schools Parent Council

Our mission is to create an open, safe and transparent forum in which ideas, questions and global concerns from parents of students identified as gifted and talented and the Department of Teaching learning might be shared.

We envision a **group focus** on:

1. Creating and maintaining an inclusive school district with a climate of embracing, supporting and serving students all students including those identified as gifted and talented via awareness and understanding.
2. Establishing a group that is representative of a cross section of Lakewood City School students identified as gifted and talented.
3. Ensuring high expectations for students identified as gifted and talented.

Our charge is to discuss global concerns identified by the group. **If you are having concerns with your son or daughter's classroom or provision of services** please talk directly with your child's teacher. If you have tried that, to no avail, please connect with the building principal. If the building principal is unable to assist you he/she will direct you to Mrs. Sigler, our district's coordinator for Gifted Education. Thank you.

Four gifted parent council meetings have been scheduled throughout the school year in the Board Conference Room:

- September 20 – 6-7 PM
- December 5 - 1:30-2:30 PM
- March 6- 1:30-2:30 PM
- May 8 – 6-7 PM

Dr. Palumbo shared with parents that she and Mrs. Sigler did an all-day in-service at Harding MS on differentiated instruction with middle school teachers from both Harding and Garfield who work with gifted students and with those students in their Advanced Classes. Teachers were engaged all day in the work and found it beneficial.

Parent Questions:

What is the difference between Gifted and Advanced Classes?

Gifted is a term that is defined by the state (not the district) and in order to be identified as gifted a student needs must meet that criteria: certain ability and achievement scores on approved tests from the State Board of Education.

All students in the self-contained program are identified as gifted and are on WEPs (Written Education Plans). Some students in the Advanced Classes at the MS are identified as gifted and others are high ability students: above average achievement scores in the subject area, above average ability, and have teacher recommendation: excellent report card grades and classroom work. Advanced, AP, and College Credit Plus classes at the HS also include gifted identified students as well as non-gifted identified students. All students identified as gifted and **served** in the district must have a Written Education Plan.

Why don't teachers of students identified as gifted have to be gifted certified?

The operating standards state that teachers of gifted must be certified in the area that they teach, receive ongoing professional development (which may come in many forms), and work under the guidance of a district gifted coordinator. Lakewood meets these requirements.

What is the District doing to help students not just meet their needs, but also helping them exceed in their area/s of need?

- The District offers self-contained gifted programming at grades 3, 4, and 5 which offers an accelerated math curriculum.
- The Reading and Writing curriculum allow students to work at independent levels.
- Accelerated and Advanced math classes at the MS levels.
- Foreign language at the MS level
- STEM class at MS
- AP, Advanced, and College Credit Plus classes at the HS level.
- The district also provides offerings in music and the arts

2017-18 School Year

- The District plans to utilize a GIS (Gifted Intervention Specialist) to service identified gifted students at their home school
- Whole grade testing to identify gifted students at grades 2 and 5 will move from January to Fall

Topics for future parent council meetings:

- Continuum of Services in the District for GT/High Ability Students (involve HS counselor as students move from MS to HS - what does that pathway look like?)
- Requirements for Service for Gifted, the Self-Contained Program, and Middle School program

PLEASE RSVP early for our upcoming meetings so that we can ensure that our meeting space is large enough to accommodate all who would like to attend

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM