

Gifted and Talented Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time of Meeting: October 14, 2011 8:30-10:30am

Location: DESE, Malden, MA

Attendees: The following tables list the members of the council and show the attendance at this meeting with an X in the Present column.

Members		General Background	Present (X)
Lorretta	Holloway	Associate Professor, Framingham State University	X
Tyrone	Mowatt	Principal, Business Strategy and Research at FromTopDown, LLC	X
Lisa	Natcharian	Freelance Writer, Wilbraham, Community Representative	
Donna	Potter-Astion	Teacher, Berkshire Hills Regional Schools	x
Michele	Proude	Parent, Hull	X
Shelly	Toomey	Systems Engineer, BAE Systems, Parent	X
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education		Current Role	
Carol	Lach	DOE representative	X
General Public		General Background	
Jerry	Mroz	Anova School leader and parent	X

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This was the first meeting of the 2011-2012 year for this council and the meeting results are captured below.

Meeting Results:

The attendees of the meeting reviewed the final report published in June by the council to ensure we would make the same recommendations today and the conclusion was unanimous that we would make these same recommendations today. These recommendations are pasted below for reference.

A. Incorporate challenges/extensions and assessments for advanced learners into the Current Professional Development for the new frameworks.

Target Audience → Current Teachers and school administrators

Additional Expected Cost → None

B. Include in the model evaluation for current educators explicit reference to meeting the needs of gifted and advanced learners

Target Audience → current district supervisors and teachers

Expected Cost → Low

C. Require that Education Programs include education about and demonstration of differentiation for gifted and high-ability students.

Target Audience → Education Programs and Future Teachers

Expected Cost → Low

D. Implement Awareness and Educational Programming for district superintendents and curriculum supervisors on beyond grade level learners and gifted underachievers.

Target Audience → School Administrators

Expected Cost → Low

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The group asked how to go about making the recommendations 'actionable'.

It was not clear to the members of the council if there is any feedback from the Department of Education on whether or not the recommendations have been reviewed and are going to be implemented or not.

A couple of requests were made to Carol Lach to help the group understand how to attain feedback. The first request is for Carol to find out who could help us to connect in with the Commissioner's meeting of superintendents. This was our 4th recommendation in the final report where we would use 45 minutes to introduce to the superintendents the need for advancing education for Gifted and Talented students and the low/no cost ways to do this.

The second request for Carol is to find out how this council can get on the agenda for the monthly Board of Education and Secondary Education (BESE).

Carol Lach from the DOE provided some updates on the DOE's work with advisory councils this upcoming year.

- An advisory council coordinator that spans across all 17 councils has been assigned to facilitate coordination among the councils. Terry Valentine from the legal department is the person assigned as the Advisory Council coordinator.
- The reports from the 17 councils from June were incorporated into a single document and the Commissioner is expected to review these reports and put together new charges for the council based on the newest priorities.
- Carol also informed the council of the Commissioner's top 5 Goals and Priorities for 2011-2012, which are as follows:
 - College and Career Readiness
 - Grade 3 literacy and Grade 8 Math
 - Educator Effectiveness
 - District and School Turn-around
 - Data and technology use for assessment purpose and instructional technology use.
- The final item that Carol informed the group is the fact that the Commissioner has received 6 requests to become members of this Advisory Council. These requests are being reviewed and at the next council meeting we should see these new members participating with this year's council.

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The group chair, Lorretta, passed on information that might be of interest to the group: Early College high schools focusing on STEM being developed in the state because dual-enrollment is one solution for gifted and advanced learners. The Marlborough public school district is opening an Early College High School this fall with a 6th grade and a 9th grade cohort. At least two others will be opening next school year. This program is considered an early to college effort through the high school and is one step closer to bridging the gap between high school and college.

The group remains focused on pushing forward with the recommendations published in June and will continue to broaden efforts to make this happen.

The next meeting is December 2nd at 8:30 at Framingham State College.