Gifted Advisory Minutes: May 12, 2015
Location – 123B Central Office

Meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. Present were Pam Cernocky, Jackie Wiegel, Laurie Osberg, Melissa Greer, Michelle Kooiker

Review of the Parent Brochure completed, Minor changes were made to clarify areas of identification and access to further information. The brochure is ready for printing and sharing with families and community.

Video was shared from Fordham Institute about Gifted Education and Common Core State Standards – myths, realities, out of level testing, implications for Gifted Education. The links are: http://edexcellence.net/publications/common-core-and-americas-high-achieving-students and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIK3qNmeg_k

Discussion followed – Relating to acceleration and purpose for advanced level instruction. “Think about “desks” at their own size.” Discussion began to brainstorm about low income kids and what can community do to support interventions and advanced experiences.

Exit questions and statements for consideration and learning for Gifted Advisory 2015-16 meetings:

- Make sure standards and policies help all students grow with excellence
- STAR assessment data at grade level rather than academic level – implications
- What is the federal policy that limits testing to only one grade level above? Why?
- How can high performing students show growth?
- Do we blame the tests?
- Do we blame the teachers?
- Common Core State Standards are "Floor" NOT "Ceiling" standards. (This means to me we should be exposing all students to above grade level standards!)
- All students should show growth no matter what level that they are at! Not just one grade level above growth! (This makes me think about the AIMS/STAR Data collected on grade level kid-0's & not there ability levels!)
- Accountability is a must for our Schools, District, State & National Government when it comes to pursuing "Excellence" standards & policies! (This means we need to get involved with Policy Makers!!!)
- - Advanced learners in the US are far behind advanced students in most other countries.
- - It's easy to say we are differentiating, but we aren't. It's an incredibly difficult task to do correctly, and teachers receive very little training in this area. (12:30)
- - Plucker's ability grouping comments (15:50)
- - A math acceleration example (45:00)
- - Since when are we socialists in education? Everyone getting the same thing at the same time. (46:00)

Meeting adjourned 5:40 p.m. Next meeting dates TBD September 2015.