

**Gifted Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**  
Central Office, Room 137, 500 Main Street, Eau Claire  
December 1, 2015: 4:00 - 5:30

**Introductions: New gifted education resource teachers, Colleen Morgan - South; Laura Schlichting - Meadowview, Putnam, Flynn**

**In Attendance: Doug Aleta, Colleen Morgan, Natasha Ottum, Mary Rettke, Cathy Steidl, Joanie Heacox, Karyn Wajda, Laurie Osberg, Laura Schlichting, Michelle Kooiker, Terri Larson**

**Review of the minutes**

**Learning opportunities- Jim Schmitt Guest Speaker**

- **Discuss Graduation requirements revised in March, 2015 (see specific graduation requirement document) 345.6 Rule (1)**
  - **Change in legislation for graduation requirements after 2016**
  - **Increased requirements for science and math**
- **Want the GPA experience to be a 9-12 experience. Thinking of the social/emotional for middle school students.**
- **Parent question: Does Biology transcript from last year count towards GPA? Jim will speak with parent about an expunged process.**
- **Rich Spindler question: very accelerated students...will credits count for any of their courses? No credits count towards high school from this school year but last year's credits do count.**
- **Course taken during middle school will not have plus and minuses**
- **geometry gradebooks are not the same in the middle schools. There will not be a plus minus for the final grade. Will be fixed for next year.**
- **What should parents keep in mind when looking at Skyward? Will send out a communication at the end of the year to explain what to look for**
- **Post secondary looks at the rigor of the schedule of courses taken**
- **Science requires Life(1), Physical (1), and Earth science (1/2). Trouble comes with the life science if they take Biology as an 8th grader because there are not as many life science courses offered.**
- **Will the credit change affect Biology courses at the middle school? yes...it may. The principals are working on other options at the middle school. Students will be well set to take AP Biology as a sophomore**
- **is there a possibility for Enriched Science 6-8? yes.**
- **Social/emotional - forcing students to stay in high school for 4 year's . High school has 5 minutes longer of class each day. It totals to a lot more minutes. Discussed application process at the university and GPA. Are earning credit to advance to the next course but not graduation. Students can achieve more and get done earlier that might be good for them.**

- **Early graduation.** There is a process to compact middle school and then grade acceleration for individual students. The district has the authority to develop an alternate plan for early graduation. A lot of “growing up” happens during the 4 years of high school.
- **What is the GT advice for students coming up?** We will continue to advise the same message that if your child is very interested they should continue the acceleration through high school.
- **The number of students taking the accelerated courses in sequence are pretty equal...they remain very similar.**
- **Most students who take the AP test pass.**
- **From a middle school advising perspective, the district needs to be very clear about the on and off ramps for accelerations.** Most of the time the decision to accelerate at the 5-6 grade it is the parent until the student gets into high school.
- **Also note....taking away the GPA was to “encourage” students to try taking more challenging courses.** Can take risks in the middle school and not worry about long term effects.
- **Middle school has quicker feedback/concern about the feedback at the high school level with so many students.**
- **Worry about the gifted students coming from families that are not as supported.**
- **Universities will see all foreign language courses instead of world language in place of Spanish I**
- **Showed grid of merit based scholarships for Universities**
- **are the high school’s planning ahead for the change from 22 to 23.5 credits?** Yes...the high schools are having conversations about the D/F list. Asking students to do more math/science we have a challenge. Don’t want students to fall through the cracks. Will put students on an “at risk” list.
- **When do they take the US citizen exam?** Junior year after taking civics or ap government courses. High success at both high schools. Current Juniors have to pass the “citizen” exam to graduate for 2017 graduation requirements.

**February 4th meeting will discuss what parents need to know and the best way to be informed. A checklist, on off ramp, clear message for parents. Will take information about brochure considerations (on website?)**

**Final: Handbook now has a quick overview brochure that went from 20 pages to 4. Thanks to the gifted advisory for putting that together.**

**Offered exit cards that will be strongly considered for the work done at the February meeting.**