



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education
(SACGTE)
SUMMARY**

NOV. 15, 2023

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Veronica Sullivan, Director of IDEA Implementation and Preschool, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Summary of Discussion: Veronica Sullivan welcomed members and reviewed the mission of the council. Misty Green reviewed meeting norms and procedures.

Agenda Item: Introduction of Members and Roll Call

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Julia Roberts called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call.

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Kathie Anderson, Carrie Ballinger, Katie Booth, Lindsay Burton, Kimberly Code, Paulynn Covington, Byron Darnell, Hannah England, Kirk Haynes, Brenda Martin, Julia Roberts, Trinity Walsh (representative for Jennifer Fraker)

ABSENT: Shaundeidra Bradford, Brandy Corbin, Mason Dyer, Phillip Kash, Jeanne Lee, Tiffany Marshall, Kim Nettleton

Board members in attendance: 12

Board members not in attendance: seven

Agenda Item: Approval of SACGTE Meeting Minutes

Lindsay Burton, Secretary of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Minutes from Sept. 20, 2023, were given to members for review. Paulynn Covington noted that the meeting dates for this meeting needed to be changed to in-person. Kirk Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Katie Booth seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Minutes were approved as amended.

Agenda Item: Search for a New Commissioner

Patrice McCrary, Member of the Kentucky Board of Education

Summary of Discussion: Patrice McCrary shared that Kentucky is looking for a new Commissioner of Education. State school board members are reaching out to advisory councils to get their input. She posed some questions to the council.

Question #1-What are some qualities you would like in Kentucky's next commissioner?

Julia Roberts shared her hope that proficiency will not be the goal, especially for gifted learners. She would like the new commissioner to celebrate teaching and to encourage and support advanced coursework. Bren Martin would like someone who welcomes parents and students in decision-making. Paulynn Covington would like a commissioner who champions the voice of the community, in addition to students and parents and someone who champions education and makes everyone excited about education. Kirk Haynes would like a commissioner with experience teaching in public schools. Trinity Walsh would like the education continuum championed through post-high school. Hannah England would like a commissioner to focus on the whole child, not just scores and data. Covington added that she would like the commissioner to support universal pre-k to help narrow the excellence gap and would appreciate a person who feeds and supports the educator pipeline. Martin added that social-emotional issues are important, someone who is not partisan and is focused on the students and teachers. Haynes stated someone who can work with elected officials at all levels and someone who has extensive knowledge of school funding and finance. Carrie Ballinger requests that the next commissioner needs to have experience in the Kentucky public school setting. Katie Booth suggested someone with a commitment to the Commonwealth and wants to be in the position the long haul.

Question #2-What should the new commissioner focus on in their first year?

England stated the first year should be spent working in each district in some way to build relationships. Covington added the new commissioner should honor and respect the work the board has already done with United We Learn. Roberts said messaging will be very important, especially in regard to the teaching profession.

Agenda Item: Twice Exceptional Learners

Kathie Anderson, Gifted Education Consultant, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Summary of Discussion: Twice exceptional (2e) refers to intellectually gifted children who have one or more learning disabilities and are also gifted and talented (GT). There is a wide range of categories of disabilities. Students with these disabilities must also be considered for their talents and gifts. There are regulations that address twice exceptional students and the considerations they must be given. There was a discussion on the best ways to identify these twice exceptional students, since they might not always identify using traditional GT screening and assessment methods.

There could be three profiles of twice exceptional students.

#1- “Just try harder”-they are gifted and have a hidden disability, may have large vocabularies or are very verbal, written expression may not match up, on grade level.

#2- “Just average”-not identified as gifted or student with a disability, one masks the other often, often on grade level so no red flags, talents emerge later in life.

#3- “Can’t be gifted”-more often identified because they stand out in the classroom, often fail because of their disability, little attention is given to their strengths, negative outlook can affect behavior and self-esteem.

Twice exceptional students bring a unique mix of strengths and challenges.

There was discussion on how to tell the differences in possible giftedness and behaviors, as well as gifted staff representation during Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings.

Screening can be given to whole grade levels to eliminate barriers and improve access; IEP accommodations must be provided, and multiple forms of evidence should be gathered. Similar considerations should be given for assessments, as well as flagging discrepancies, offering nonverbal assessments, and helping students practice/audition. 2e students can be supported by offering a nurturing environment, giving them learning strategies, offering social and emotional support, and providing strength and interest-based programming and interventions. Special education and gifted teachers should work together to provide services. Gifted teachers could be invited to Admission and Release Committee (ARC) and special education teachers should be invited to GT Selection and Placement Committee meetings.

Agenda Item: 2023-2024 SACGTE Priorities

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Roberts and council members reviewed and discussed the previously selected priorities.

The priorities for 2023-2024:

- 1-Equitable resources across districts;
- 2-Education teacher and parents on identification and recommendations for students showing leadership characteristics; and
- 3-Equitable funding for all socioeconomic/geographic groups/districts.

There was discussion on the limitations of some of the priorities and the desire to edit them. Due to not having a quorum, the discussion was tabled until the meeting on Feb. 6, 2024.

Agenda Item: 2023-2024 SACGTE Priority Recommendations

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Kathie Anderson, Gifted Education Consultant, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Summary of Discussion: Tabled until next meeting

Agenda Item: Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) Update

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: KAGE is requesting \$24 million from the General Assembly in funding for gifted education. The funding would pay for one full-time and one half-time certified teacher per district. The KAGE Conference is Feb. 26-27, 2024. Several keynote speakers are scheduled.

Agenda Item: National Gifted Education Update and Reports

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference was held in Orlando and attendance was similar to pre-Covid numbers. Kentucky was well represented. 2e learners and equity are being discussed at the national level. Anderson shared that NAGC is planning to focus on gifted education for pre-service teachers. She also shared that research indicates school building norms rather than district norms provide better identification equity for the gifted education program in a school district. Automatic enrollments in appropriate advanced courses to challenge gifted learners is being implemented in states such as Illinois and North Carolina. NAGC is having a teachers summit on Feb. 13, 2024. Council members discussed their takeaways from the two reports Roberts shared which were [Excellence Gaps by Race and Socioeconomic Status](#) and [Building a Wider, More Diverse Pipeline for Advanced Learners](#). Roberts encouraged anyone who wanted to take action on any of the discussions to email her.

Agenda Item: Closing Remarks

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Roberts thanked everyone for coming and for their work today. She encouraged everyone to attend the Feb. 6, 2024, meeting and then to attend the Gifted Education Proclamation. The proclamation will begin at noon ET on Feb. 6, 2024, at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort.

Agenda Item: Exit Slip and Adjournment

Misty Green, SACGTE Facilitator, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Summary of Discussion: Misty reminded everyone to complete the exit slip and travel vouchers are due to Kathie Anderson by Dec. 15, 2023. She reminded members that the next two meetings are Feb. 6 and April 17, 2024. The meeting was adjourned.