

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

**FEB. 6, 2024**

**SUMMARY:**

**I. Welcome**

Veronica Sullivan, Director of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Implementation and Preschool, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:** Interim Commissioner of Education Robin Kinney stopped in to speak to the council and welcome them. She thanked the council for its work on behalf of gifted and talented students. She also spoke to the council about the search for the next commissioner of education. They are taking applications through Feb. 16 and will begin holding interviews mid-March. It is hoped there will be a nominee to send to the legislature for approval before Sine Die, April 15, and that the new commissioner will take office by July 1. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is continuing to work with school districts to ensure all children are being offered vibrant and meaningful learning opportunities. She thanked the council for their work and hopes to be able to attend the next meeting.

Veronica Sullivan reviewed the purpose of the council. Misty Green reviewed meeting norms and procedures.

**II. 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, Paulynn Covington, Byron Darnell, Hannah England, Misty Green, Kirk Haynes, Jeanne Lee, Brenda Martin, Kim Nettleton, Julia Roberts

**ABSENT:** Shaundeidra Bradford, Kimberly Code, Brandy Corbin, Mason Dyer, Phillip Kash, Tiffany Marshall, Trinity Marsh

Council members in attendance: 13

Council members not in attendance: seven

### **III. Approval of SACGTE Meeting Minutes**

Lindsay Burton, Secretary of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Minutes from Sept. 20, 2023, and Nov. 15, 2023, were given to members for review. Kim Nettleton made a motion to accept the minutes. There was no discussion. Hannah England seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **IV. 2023-2024 SACGTE Priorities**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Julia Roberts reviewed the priorities and asked members if anything needed to be added or changed to the three priorities the council had decided on. Paulynn Covington brought up that there were similarities between priority one and three. She asked that since both have to do with resources/funding, they could be combined and refined. Kirk Haynes mentioned, for priority two, considering what identification opportunities look like and that it may need to be broader to encompass other areas besides leadership. There was agreement from several members that one and three could be combined and refined.

Nettleton made a motion that one and three be combined to say, “equitable funding and resources for all socioeconomic/geographic groups/districts.” The motion was seconded by Carrie Ballinger. Motion passed.

Covington made a motion to change the order of the priorities and to create a new priority one “to support the increased funding for gifted and talented education.” Ballinger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

England made a motion that priority two be changed to “educating teachers and parents on the identification and recommendations for students showing gifted and talented characteristics.” Katie Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nettleton made a motion that her previous verbiage for the former priority one be used for what will now be priority three, which is “to support equitable funding for all socioeconomic/geographic groups/districts.” Jeanne Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **V. 2023-2024 SACGTE Priority Recommendations**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** The council members divided into three groups to make recommendations for each priority.

Priority #1 - Develop a formal annual budget request for increased funding.

Recommendations to the KDE:

- Examine what data could be collected to support requests,
- Recommend an examination of multiple data sources to support budget requests,
- Identify data that could be collected to support Priority #1 such as district caseloads.

Priority #2 - Educating teachers and parents on the identification and recommendations for students showing gifted and talented characteristics.

Recommendations to KDE:

- Develop end-of-year report with questions focused on the following questions:
  - How the district gathers recommendations;
  - How your district implements identification;
  - How are Gifted and Talented (GT) resources utilized, and
  - What questions are included on parent surveys?

Priority 3 - To support equitable funding for all socioeconomic/geographic groups/districts

Recommendation to KDE:

- Create task force to study the allocation of equitable funding for all school districts;
- Reviews the language of current regulation regarding 75% allocation to certified staff to allow for flexibility of funds to be spent on student services;
- Financially incentivizes teacher to acquire GT endorsement to combat current shortage;
- Evaluate and develop guidelines for appropriate caseload; and
- Require GT training for general education teachers.

Haynes made a motion that the information from each priority group be shared out along with who worked on those recommendations via a Google Doc and any questions can be posed before our April meeting. Ballinger seconded. Motion passed.

## **VI. State Gifted Education Update**

Kathie Anderson, Gifted Education Consultant

**Summary of Discussion:** Kathie Anderson shared that updates are being made to the Frequently Asked Questions for Gifted Education document, guidance is being updated and end of the year training is being updated. She has been working on differentiation strategies for classroom teachers through monitoring. She is doing monitoring for districts and follow ups to their responses will happen.

## **VII. KAGE Update**

Kimberly Nettleton, KAGE Liaison

**Summary of Discussion:** In October members spoke to the joint Committee on Education to advocate for increased funding for GT education. The Kentucky Association of Gifted Education (KAGE) conference is Feb 26-27 at the Marriott in Lexington. The KAGE foundation helps provide scholarships for education enrichment opportunities for all ages. Within the foundation is also the Lynette Baldwin Scholarship for Teachers to attend trainings, etc.

## **VIII. National Gifted Education Update**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Work is being done on revision of teacher standards for gifted education. TIP KY, the talent search, reaches beyond Kentucky. Work has been done to allow younger students to take the ACT. Programming and recognition is also taking place. The talent

search offers expanded testing opportunities for gifted students. Roberts wrote an op-ed in December looking at the importance of advanced math opportunities. A program in North Carolina allows students who score high on state assessments to be placed in advanced math classes rather than opting in. Roberts is advocating for Kentucky to have a similar program.

## **IX. Closing Remarks**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Roberts thanked everyone for coming and for their work today.

## **X. Exit Slip and Adjournment**

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Green reminded everyone to complete their exit slip and travel vouchers. Convington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Haynes seconded. The meeting was adjourned.