

Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC)

Minutes for Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Attendees: Kathy Smith, Frances Ivey, Carol Horn, Cindy Waters, Judy Howard, Cecy Krill, Susan Barrett, Anne Horak, Connie Goodman, Sarah Mayhew, Kirsten Maloney, Cheryl McCullough, Karen Metivier-Carreiro, Laura Walter, Chas Roades, Linda Cable, Faye Brenner, Frances Ivey, Beverly Shaklee, Steven Key, Amos Smith, Suzanne Spector, Grace Becker, Sara Shemonsky, and Laura Welke.

Cindy opened the meeting and asked committee members to introduce themselves.

Cindy reported that the report to the school board was well received.

Kathy Smith, our AAPAC school board representative, shared the charge of the committee: *Provide an assessment and report that identifies the impacts to the performance and delivery of the Advanced Academic programs based on any changes made by the School Board in the coming months. If no changes are made, provide recommendations for improvement in these programs, keeping in mind the budgetary concerns now before FCPS.*

Cecy Krill presented background information about the Blue Ribbon Commission that was created five years ago to look at the TJ Admissions process. She also shared the sequence of events that led up to current revisions in the TJHSST admissions process.

Judy Howard shared the areas of concern.

- Need to reduce the size of the semifinalist pool to:
 - Set realistic student expectations regarding admission
 - Relieve burden on teachers writing recommendations for semifinalists
- Need to develop and use more quantifiable measures for ranking applicant packets
- Need to better identify students with a strong interest in math, science, and technology
- Need to consider additional means to better address the School Board's goal of increasing diversity

Judy Howard explained the changes to the TJHSST Admissions Process

- Modify a sliding scale for GPA and add minimum math score (30) requirement for semifinalist-pool eligibility (projected to reduce the pool by 200 students)
- Reduce number of teacher recommendations from 3 to 2 (math or science teacher)
- Revise Teacher Recommendation form and Student Information Sheet (SIS)
- Assess teacher recommendations and SIS separately (similar to essay review process)
- Weight each section of final application packet (rating scores for SIS, teacher recommendations, essay scores, math test score, and math/science grades) to establish rankings
- Admit students in rank order until 480 admitted
- Establish a wait list of 50 students

Grace asked for clarification about the increase to admitting 480 students. Judy clarified that this increase was because they know that students change their mind over the summer and we need to keep a few spaces for people who move into the area.

Chas Roades asked what is being done to find the historically underrepresented students. Judy agreed that this was a big concern. Judy shared that there is a section where students could add information about diversity, however, this cannot be a determining factor in admission.

Cindy turned the meeting over to Carol Horn for the updates. Carol shared the following:

- New K-12 Advanced Academic Programs: A Continuum of Services
- New K-12 Advanced Academic Endorsement brochure outlining the new FCPS Advanced Academic Endorsement
- *Diamonds in the Rough* Conference in March focusing on twice exceptional learners
- VAG Conference in October
- Updates to our website: www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt

Kirsten Maloney shared some of the changes made to the website in response to feedback from AAPAC members in June.

Cindy shared that the dates for future meetings were included in everyone's folder.

Cindy shared that we have been asked to provide our committee bylaws to the school board. She asked the committee to read a draft copy of the bylaws for discussion and vote.

Carol shared that we need to add the following committee members to the bylaws:

- A representative from a university
- A representative from the Minority Student Achievement committee

A suggestion was made to define what it means that the committee is open to the public.

Cindy shared that we would go through the document section by section for comment.

The following changes were made:

Section B: Membership

Article I – Number of Members - increase membership to 33

Article II – Representation - increase number to 22

Article III – Selection - suggestion to change “may nominate” instead of “shall nominate”

Article VII Reappointment – discussion was held about term limits and reappointment and committee decided to impose no limits at this time

Section D: Member Responsibilities

Article VII – change responsibilities of chairperson to consult with coordinator

Section E: Committee Meetings

Article V – discussion of quorum consisting of at least 50% of the membership present to conduct business

Article VII – Add Article VII - Meetings are open to the public.

Section F: Annual Report to the School Board

Article IV – add to article – chair and/or vice chair shall present report to the school board.

Cindy asked for a motion to pass the bylaws.

Suzanne Spector made a motion to pass the bylaws.

Laura Walter seconded the motion.

The committee voted to accept the bylaws.

Karen Metivier-Carreiro nominated Beverly Shaklee as chair. Laura Walter seconded the motion.

Karen Metivier-Carreiro nominated Laura Walter as vice chair. Sarah Mayhew seconded the motion.

Beverly Shaklee was voted Chair and Laura Walter vice chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.