

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Strategic Plan  
Gifted Sub-Committee**

Monday, March 29, 2010  
Education Center  
501 Kings Highway East  
BOE Seminar Room  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order
  - o Dr. Rosato called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Eric Therriault, Molly Farrell, Nancy Meehan, Ginny Jacobs, Diane Rossiter, Sheila Ferrara, Wendy Simon, June Mackenzie, Pia Natoli, Analiese Paik, Kristine Andres, Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Jenny Gillis, Debbie Reynolds, Ellin Smith and Gary Rosato.
- II. Review and Approval of Minutes
  - o Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.
- III. Presentation from subcommittee working on Action Step 3:
  - a. Review the identification process to insure that it is aligned with the goals and objectives of the program. (40 minutes)
    - o Anna Cutaia-Leonard briefly reviewed the charge of the subcommittee for identification. Eric Therriault summarized the work and distributed a one page handout detailing in draft format Gifted Identification considerations and Gifted Programming considerations. The proposed ID process would occur at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and include 3 types of screening tools, the possibility for parent and teacher nomination and the formation of a nominating committee comprised of teachers, principals, central office representatives, gifted coordinators and gifted resource teachers. Program considerations include interdisciplinary units of study, student selection of topics, multi grade grouping and possible half day sessions one day per week. There would also be a school wide enrichment focus for grades 3, 4, and 5 with push in enrichment activities in grades K, 1 and 2.
- IV. Update from subcommittee working on Action Step 4:
  - a. Review the research on Multiple Intelligences and determine if it should be incorporated into the program (20 minutes)
    - o Analiese Paik reviewed the work of this subcommittee and referred to information that has been posted on the gifted wiki that summarizes the theory of multiple intelligences as proposed by Dr. Howard Gardner. A number of related resources are also posted to the wiki and were reviewed – notably video clips from Channel 13 and PBS. The 8 intelligences identified by Dr. Gardner are:
      - o **Verbal-Linguistic** – facility with language; capacity to use language well

- **Logical/Mathematical** – terrific with numbers, math and logic (Note: there is no necessary link between 1 and 2; those possessing both are considered smart and generally go on to become law professors like Clinton and Obama)
- **Musical** – greater sensitivity to sounds, rhythms, tones, and music. Talent vs. intelligence; lexical move to call it an intelligence (more on talent later)
- **Visual-Spatial** – very good at visualizing and mentally manipulating objects - architect, anatomist
- **Bodily-Kinesthetic** – bodily movement and physiology - actors, dancers, athletes
- **Interpersonal** – understanding other people – teacher, religious leader
- **Intrapersonal** – ability to understand yourself – do not follow in parents’ footsteps, rather make their own way
- **Naturalist** – ability to make consequential distinctions between things in nature (Darwin). Scientists, farmers.

The committee discussed the implications of these intelligences on programming options outlined above. The interdisciplinary approach proposed in III above lends itself very well to incorporating the theory of multiple intelligences and tapping into individual student gifts and talents.

V. Develop timeline for proposal development to be ready for fall, 2010. (30 minutes)

- The committee discussed the timeline and requirements for developing a proposal to be presented to the Board of Education next fall. In general terms, funding for staffing, programming considerations and professional development would need to be included in any proposal going forward. Middle School programming is currently under review as well. The committee will receive an update at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

VI. Next meeting date is April 26, 2010

- This meeting date will need to change as there are several conflicting meetings on this date. A meeting date will be determined and sent to everyone via email.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.