

Santa Barbara Secondary Schools
GATE District Advisory Council
April 17, 2008
Meeting Minutes
Final

ATTENDEES:

Sandy Robertson, District GATE Coordinator; Paul Turnbull, Assistant Superintendent; Wendy Geis-Rockwood, DAC Secretary; Niloofar Kilpelainen, Parliamentarian; Paul Campbell, Goleta Valley Junior High Site Coordinator; Kurt Bergthold, La Colina Site Coordinator; Lindsay Woodard DPHS Site Coordinator; Katie Pelle, La Cumbre Site-Coordinator; Mike Brashears, San Marcos High School Parent; Hank Pitcher, La Colina Parent; Patricia Ruth; Santa Barbara High Site Coordinator; Chris Speer, Santa Barbara Junior High, Parent, Newsletter Chair; Mary Ann Neilsen, Santa Barbara High Parent; Katie O'Reilly-Rogers, Dos Pueblos Parent; Joan Cotich, San Marcos High Site Coordinator; Jerolyn Fikes, San Marcos High; Diane Frankel, Dos Pueblos Alternate Parent Representative; Marissa Miller, Community Representative; Janet Rowse, Santa Barbara High Parent;

Welcome and Introductions

Last month's minutes read and approved.

Annual Evaluations: Entire District

This year, the annual evaluation of the GATE program will be done through Zoomerang. There is a need a small group to work on this task. Results will be available in the fall. It was suggested that a couple of questions be given regarding the 12th grade year to stimulate senior participation.

State GATE Plan Update

Due to its eminence on June 5th, the update to the GATE plan will not include recommendations that the District Focus Evaluation group makes as the feedback is not in final form.

Focus Group

The work of the focus group has developed some changes to GATE identification of students at the secondary level. The new criteria will be covered in depth on the Gate website for any parents with questions.

There will also be a phase-in of changes in requirements for teacher training for teachers who teach GATE and Honours. They will be required to have some training in differentiation. Pre AP, IB, or AVID training would cover this requirement. Different trainings will be made available in the summer and next fall to give teachers a window of

time to complete this requirement. The first training will be mid to late August. It was also moved and approved to authorize \$10,000 of GATE DAC funds toward teacher training needs that will fulfil this new requirement.

There also will be Parent Education nights scheduled that will cover social-emotional issue of GATE students. The focus of the GATE and honours will be in the 7th -10th grades, with AP or IB classes being the provision for 11th and 12th grades.

Fulfilling the path of training for GATE teachers will fill a hole in the present GATE plan. The last two years of grades 11 and 12 were not addressed in this plan at present. There is still a need to look at programming in those years to complete the programmatic planning. There are no requirements to teach AP at the present time.

Another recommendation is to have a Career Day for GATE students to give students direction with fields of study.

All recommendations of the District Focus Group will be put on the website for review in the near future.

Newsletter

Articles are needed and requested from all schools, teachers and students in GATE. Please contact Chris Speer through the website.

Slate of Officers approved.

GATE DAC parent positions will remain the same next year. Wendy Geis-Rockwood, Secretary; Niloofar Kilpelainen, Parliamentarian; Michael Zoradi, Finance Chair; Chris Speer, Newsletter Chair.

Over and Above Funds Approved;

For the list of items funded for various schools contact the GATE Office.

Site Reports

Goleta Valley- Dance Band performing in Big Dog Parade. School Talent Show upcoming.

La Cumber- Group is leaving for Europe May 15th-27th. Also group going to Washington DC and New York City May 21-29. First ever Literary Magazine has been published in 7th grade. "Hello Dolly" musical to be performed June 4,7,8,9. A hundred poems were submitted to the Santa Barbara Independent and there were four winners.

La Colina- Sea urchin mitosis fertilization project now in progress. UCSB professor shared a slideshow of his recent trip to Africa. The American Voice program upcoming.

San Marcos- Were winners of the County Mock Trial did not advance after that. "Damn Yankees" spring musical. Enchante and the Madrigals sang in cathedrals in Europe. Also there was a performance and learning opportunity at Carnegie Hall in New York. Track and water polo teams have the highest GPS in Southern CA. Students were impressed by the "Every 15 Minute" program that very powerfully demonstrated the effects of drunk driving. Art show in the cafeteria is now available for viewing.

Dos Pueblos- GATE Math students to compete. A student received 2nd in State competition in French. Advanced singers got to have a class with Bobby McFerrin.

Santa Barbara High- Ashland trip was awesome. VADA has an opening of the Senior Show at the Ridley Tree. SBH were among the winners in poetry contest. They will be starting an English Honours Society by invitation for advanced students. AP Environmental science will be taking field trip to Costa Rica.

Santa Barbara Junior High- Participation in Math Counts. The Civil War project is in process. Illuminated Manuscripts are being prepared for the Renaissance Faire, to be held May 16, 2008.

Next Meeting:

Santa Barbara Junior High
Globe Theatre
Thursday, May 15, 2008
3:30-5:00