

Santa Barbara Secondary Schools
GATE District Advisory Council
October 16, 2008
Meeting Minutes
Draft

ATTENDEES:

Sandy Robertson, District GATE Coordinator; Wendy Geis-Rockwood, DAC Secretary; Niloofar Kilpelainen, Parliamentarian; Paul Campbell, Goleta Valley Junior High Site Coordinator; Kurt Bergthold, La Colina Site Coordinator; William Woodard DPHS Site Coordinator; Patricia Ruth; Santa Barbara High Site Coordinator; Joan Cotich, San Marcos High Site Coordinator; Marissa Miller, Community Representative; Janet Rowse, Santa Barbara High Parent; Blia Yang, CAL-SOAP; Ian Terry; DPHS Parent; Natasha Heifetz Campbell, SBJHS parent; Linda Sommers, SBJH parent; John Hunter, La Cumbre Parent; Susan Zink, San Marcos parent.

Welcome and Introductions

Presentation of “SMART Board”

Sandy Robertson presented the features of the new SMART Board and its benefits. It interweaves the internet and all the flexibility of computer presentation to classes. An example was explained. Recently debate class covered September 11th and CNN pictures could be easily brought to make the lesson more vivid and engaging with the students. The use of funds raised by DAC for this type of cutting edge technology was advocated.

Budget

An accounting of the funds received by last year’s phone-a-thon and monies received through the district were presented. Also outlined were the expenses paid for during the summer. For a full accounting, contact the GATE office.

Site Plans

A plan was presented by each of the schools. This identified the number of classes designated as GATE classes and the percentage of GATE students enrolled in each class. The numbers of GATE identified at each school works into a formula for a base amount that each school receives in GATE monies. Plans on how these funds will be spent were outlined by each Site Coordinator.

Each school must also turn in a syllabus for each GATE and Advanced Placement class. It was suggested that requested funds not be released until the syllabi have been turned into the GATE office. This is a requirement of the State Review. It is important to have all paperwork because there will be review by the State of our GATE program this year to make sure all this is in compliance. Cynthia White, Director of Curriculum of Categorical Programs will address compliance issues.

After review of the program last spring by the State, the Santa Barbara Secondary GATE program received the top ranking as an Exemplary Program resulting in a five year authorization of the program (pending verification through a Site Visit in the early spring, 2009).

Issues Discussed during Summary of Site Plans

Substitutes cannot be brought on to relieve teachers to attend training. Due to employment constraints all training of teachers at this time needs to happen on weekends or in the summer, unless it is a training that is part of a School Board Focus Goal.

Laptop computers were also discussed. It was decided a committee would be the most efficient way to address policy issues regarding the funding of laptop computers. Sandy Robertson will put out a request for volunteers for such a committee.

Site Surveys

Marissa Miller presented a brief presentation on the GATE Evaluation Surveys undertaken last spring at all schools. It was the first year using a web based system called Zoomerang. The number of responses received was less than hoped for, but the efficiency of the system, and the fact that it allows us to survey each school every year means that we will continue to use Zoomerang. It is hoped that with work on the system of alerting parents and young people we can get a better response in future years. In summary, youth reported GATE education is serving them, parents were satisfied with the program, and teachers all had positive responses. The teachers had some concerns about the qualifications for students to participate in GATE.

Next Meeting:

Santa Barbara Junior High
Globe Theatre
Thursday, November 20, 2008
3:30-5:00