

**Minutes from McNear GATE/Rapid Learner Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 18, 2008, 4:30**

- 1) 4:30 meeting began
- 2) Present: Susan Rodkin, Kathy Bockhold, Greg Colvin, Sue Davy, Lyn Van Tighem. Absent: Seana Gause, Nicole Marzo. Withdrawn: Christine Walker.
- 3) Meeting Schedule for this year -- Kathy Bockhold and Amy Turko will alternate attendance:
  - 10/16 7:00
  - 11/20 4:30
  - 1/22 7:00
  - 2/19 4:30
  - 3/19 7:00
  - 4/23 4:30
  - 5/19 7:00 (changed from 5/21 due to Open House Night)
- 4) Greg and Seana will revisit the minutes from the May and June meetings.
- 5) Lyn offered to draft a public version of the meeting minutes that can be posted on the web, removing any confidential material.
- 6) Susan distributed the District GATE Parent Advisory Meeting schedule: 10/7, 1/6, 4/7 – all 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Teacher meetings are on different dates.
- 7) Greg raised the question of to whom this GATE/Rapid Learner Committee should feed our input – District GATE Parent Advisory Committee?
- 8) 9/30 -- Kathy will attend the District GATE meeting for teachers.
- 9) 10/13 newsletter -- Susan and Kathy will include an article introducing GATE.
- 10) 10/30, 7:00 p.m. in the library -- McNear GATE Parent Meeting: open to present GATE parents and others interested
- 11) 11/10 newsletter -- article on GATE identification process and timeline
- 12) Early November -- GATE identification cycle begins.
- 13) Susan distributed the roster of current GATE students at McNear. There are 12 – 2 fourth graders, 6 fifth graders, and 4 sixth graders.
- 14) Sue, Lyn, and Greg reported that at Back To School Night in their classrooms there was very little talk of Differentiation. There didn't seem to be enough time for the teachers to get through their presentations and handouts and no time for questions. Susan will write up something for the 9/22 newsletter about the Differentiation pages and have them posted on the web.
- 15) Susan sent the Differentiation Pages to the District and they were distributed to all schools. She received positive feedback.
- 16) Susan distributed an update on Accelerated Math and Accelerated Reader. Accel Math will be the first focus, as it is more complicated and there is a greater need. It will be implemented in grades 3 through 6. The plan is for students to have access in early to mid October.
- 17) Accel Reader will be implemented in grades 2 through 6 first semester, with 1<sup>st</sup> grade being implemented in second semester.
- 18) Accel Math and Reader will be help teachers with differentiation and provide instant feedback to both teachers and students. Eventually the home connection

capability will be added. Some teachers, including Bockhold, Smaciarz, and Rose, will use their District Study Group time (5 Wednesdays per year) to deepen their knowledge of the programs. These sessions are open to other teachers in the district.

- 19) Sue received 3 responses from the McNear GATE Parent Survey she emailed to GATE parents. She will send it out again to try and gather more input.
- 20) District GATE grant of \$90,000 – Kathy will get an update at the 9/30 meeting; to be discussed in this Committee 10/16.
- 21) Greg has arranged for GATE District Coordinator, Eileen Rohan, to come to our next GATE/Rapid Learner Committee meeting on 10/16. She should have a further update for us on the GATE grant.
- 22) Ideas put forth for the grant money included:
  - 1) Professional development, such as Renzulli, passion projects
  - 2) Fund more teachers to attend CAG Events (Calif. Assoc. For The Gifted)
  - 3) Get GATE kids together, give them opportunity to delve deeper into topics
  - 4) Hire GATE-certificated teacher, perhaps share between two or more sites
  - 5) Include stipends for the teachers' time spent on GATE training, etc.
- 23) Susan will give a presentation on STAR Testing at the 10/7 PTA meeting. Susan and teachers will give presentation on Curriculum Overview at 1/6 PTA/Site Council meeting.
- 24) Draft GATE identification protocol for consideration by McNear and District:  
Greg offered to start this in October
- 25) 5:45 meeting adjourned