

**Minutes from McNear GATE/Rapid Learner Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

Gregory L. Colvin 11/20/08 3:21 PM
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- 1) 7:00 meeting began
- 2) Present: Susan Rodkin, Amy Turko, Greg Colvin, Lyn Van Tighem, Eileen Rohan (guest speaker). Absent: Sue Davy, Seana Gause, Nicole Marzo.
- 3) Reviewed and approved minutes from 9/18 meeting. Lyn will email them to Dana for posting on the website.
- 4) At the next staff meeting, Susan and teachers will talk about utilizing the Differentiation Checklists during parent conferences. It will be up to individual teachers to decide if and how they will initiate discussions with parents about the checklists. Greg expressed the hope that teachers will utilize the checklists at least for parents of GATE and rapid learner students. Lyn will write something up for the newsletter, reminding parents they may want to bring the checklists to their conferences and give instructions on downloading them from the website.
- 5) There was a discussion about increasing the number of students identified as GATE. Eileen and the district will be looking closely at GATE referrals and more closely at scores and other measurements, not just academic. [Currently, all third graders take the Raven test.](#) Eileen spoke about the dangers of identifying kids as GATE who are not really GATE, such as expectations increase (of both students and parents).
- 6) Eileen said AP classes are not typically GATE kids. Both Eileen and Susan said that GATE identified students are not automatically placed in advanced classes in either junior high or high school. All students need to test in.
- 7) Eileen said about 2% of students are Truly Gifted (IQ driven measurement) as opposed to a larger percentage that is Gifted and Talented. Twice Exceptional means Gifted plus some learning disability.
- 8) The GATE Identification Protocol should be finalized by January and before the Raven test is administered. Greg is working on a draft protocol and procedures.
- 9) Some peer group clustering does occur at McNear.
- 10) Eileen reported that the \$90k district GATE grant has a 3-year timeframe and open-ended spending requirements. The money should be spent in a way that helps build capacity, such as comprehensive staff development focused on differentiation, technology as a learning tool in the classroom, lunchtime clubs for enrichment. Greg added that there should be tangible products coming out of it that parents can see.
- 11) Teachers have been receiving training from Grant teachers on Accelerated Math and Reader. Joanne Smaciarz is implementing Accelerated Reader with some students.
- 12) Susan questions sending out another survey to GATE parents about their desires for GATE in 08/09. She feels there is already a lot going on with new Math and Science adoptions and Accelerated Math and Reader and we may not be prepared to act on the survey responses. We will get Sue's input on this.
- 13) At the 10/30 GATE parent meeting, we will try to recruit another parent or two to join our committee. Kathy, Amy, and Susan are developing agenda and welcome any input.
- 14) 8:00 meeting adjourned

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Deleted: Students are clustered by class make-up and in the social studies and science blocks in 4th and 5th grades.

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