

**Minutes from McNear GATE/Rapid Learner Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

- 1) Present: Susan Rodkin, Kathy Bockhold, Greg Colvin, Sue Davy, Lyn VanTighem. Absent: Seana Gause, Nicole Marzo, Amy Turko
 - 2) Reviewed and approved minutes from 11/20 meeting.
 - 3) Sue reported on Jan 6 District GATE parent advisory meeting: The GATE identification schedule will be changed so that the scores from the CST of 2009 can be used with the RAVEN scores from the same year. The CST scores aren't available until summer 2009. Therefore, RAVEN will be administered for all district 3rd graders and any 4th, 5th, 6th grade students who wish to be considered for GATE. The test will be scored by the site GATE coordinators and the scores will trigger an alert to the student's teacher. That teacher will tell the parent that the score was in a range that indicates that they might want to proceed with an application. The applications will be available in all school offices on Feb 2nd. The completed parent application is due on February 20. The RAVEN scores will also be reported to the District GATE Coordinator, who will follow-up with a letter home to parents of students scoring in a range that should trigger an application. The District GATE evaluation committee will review all of the applications in May. Eileen Rohan will make the final decision about identification in the summer once the CST scores are known. Parents will be notified in August. Since class assignments are made at the end of the school year for the following year, the GATE Review committee will make preliminary recommendations about students and convey that information back to each site so that GATE students, or capable others can be clustered.
 - 4) At McNear, RAVEN test will be given 1/20 to 3rd graders and 1/21 to 4th-6th graders. Susan will send letter to parents on 1/16 about the test, including language about 4th- 6th graders retaking the test. Staff has already identified approx. 15 students to be retested.
 - 5) There was confusion about the date of the August GATE training for teachers and uncertainty about who will attend from McNear. There was strong feeling that teacher time should be stipended from the 3-year grant and that grant funds should be used to send teachers to CAG in Anaheim in February if there's not a better plan for the grant funds. The idea of bonding teachers in a follow-up cohort of GATE program delivery was welcomed.
 - 6) Susan asked committee members what they wanted to see happen at McNear regarding GATE. Peer group clustering was of primary concern. Susan will talk to the 4th and 5th grade teachers about grouping GATE kids together for Science and Social Studies.
 - 7) Kathy feels strongly that the process has been working well and the students who are truly GATE have been/will be identified through the current process. She felt that this purpose of this committee was temporary, to build confidence. (She had to leave the meeting at this point.)
 - 8) Sue, Greg, Susan, and Lyn expressed support of the Identification Protocol that Greg drafted. It will be recommended to Ms. Rohan at the district office.
 - 9) It was decided that the next GATE/Rapid Learner committee meeting (4:30 on 2/19) will be more of a social nature and open to all. We will invite parents who are submitting GATE applications by the 2/20 deadline to join us for coffee and cookies, etc. We will hope to attract new committee members.
- 8:15 meeting adjourned..