

MINUTES  
High Ability Task Force Meeting  
Monday, October 16, 2017

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Present: Lily Albright, Joanne Audretsch, Janice Bizzari, Jamie Burkhart, Myra Farmer, Julius Hanks, Alexis Harmon, Maggie Henderson, Donna Kinkead, Cheryl Lewandowski, Adriana Madiol, Nancy Martin, Rob Moore, Deb Prekert, Natasha Roe, Matt Stanley, Kim Williams, and Markay Winston.

Absent: Martha Bowman, Katie Clarke, Craig Fisher, Molly Giddens, Cory Irwin, Michi McClaine, Stephanie Montgomery, and Gretchen Morgan.

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1. **Introductions**-welcomed new members of HATF
2. **Approval of April 2017 Minutes:** Alexis Harmon moved to approve, Adriana Madiol seconded and minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Coordinator's Report:**

**A. Kindergarten Cognitive Assessment**

- We administered a group battery cognitive abilities assessment to all MCCSC kindergarten students last April. The DOE recommends the CogAT cognitive abilities assessment for this level.
- The student scores from the CogAT can be easily aligned to the CSI score from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades In View assessment. The addition of this data will greatly help with high ability student profiles.
- Data from this assessment will help us serve high ability students at a younger age. We will better identify the potential and ability of students; especially at Title I schools. We identified 63 kindergarten as HA (General Intellectual, LA, or Math) based on scores in the 9<sup>th</sup> =stanine, 96-99%.
- There were concerns raised about the timing of the assessment, giving it to all students, and putting kindergarten students through the experience. We may give all kindergarten students the screener only this year; then give the full battery to qualifying students. We may also begin the process early second semester.

**B. Elementary ALPS**

- We have 29 students enrolled in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade ALPS program; 31 were invited to participate but two students moved out of district.
- We have 34 students in the fifth grade ALPS class and 50 in the sixth grade with two classes. This is the last year for the two classes.

**C. Middle School ALPS**

- We placed new 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the middle school program; 3 at BAT, 3 at JAC, and 1 at TRI.

- I am continuing to meet with each middle school ALPS team each grading period to review student progress.

#### **D. Middle School Math Placement**

- We need to communicate the updated “math pathways” to the elementary schools as well as share hybrid 6/7 math map to use with 6<sup>th</sup> grade HA students.
- We will continue to administer the Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis to qualifying students.

#### **E. Updating ALPS/HA identification plan**

- Updated plan has been published on the website.
- Positive feedback from teachers and principals.
- Some confusion with parents about HA LA appeal for ALPS; have changed language in letter.

#### **F. HA Assessments**

- In View was administered October 2-6.
- Fall NWEA September 11-29

#### **G. 2017-18 DOE HA Grant**

- Final report and 2017-18 application were delayed.
- Allocations were due to be cut for 2017-18 to accommodate more charter schools. Our 2017-18 money was only cut \$800; we will receive around \$75,200 for 2017-18.

**4. High School Credit Option-**Natasha Roe presented concerns with placement in World Language courses when students enter high school. It is still confusing when students have to decide which WL course to move if they take two in middle school. We will discuss in small groups at our November meeting.

**5. Communication of High School HA Options-** We will discuss in small groups at our November meeting.