

MINUTES  
High Ability Task Force Meeting  
Monday, February 8, 2016

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Present: Joanne Audretsch, Jamie Burkhart, Craig Fisher, Molly Giddens, Maggie Henderson, Donna Kinkead, Andrea Mobley, Stephanie Montgomery, Rob Moore, David Sabbagh, and Kim Williams.

Absent: Lily Albright, Christopher Audretsch, Jan Bergeson, Janice Bizzari, Whitney Coake, Joe Doyle, Sarah Franklin, Alexis Harmon, Cheryl Lewandowski, Nancy Martin, Natasha Roe, Matt Stanley, Lacey Winckelbach, and Monica Zerfas.

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**1. Approval of October 2015 Minutes:** Rob Moore moved to approve, David Sabbagh seconded and minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Coordinator's Report:**

- **Elementary ALPS:** NWEA testing for qualifying third grade students (CSI of 115 + and/or K-2 HA ID) February 1-12.
- **Middle School ALPS:** Middle School ALPS for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for 2016-17 is in progress. We had 107 students qualify for the Initial ID Pool (CSI 120+ AND NWEA Reading 92%+). Applications were due January 29; we have 183 applicants. The ID Committee will be reviewing applications next week. Notification letters will be mailed to all applicants on February 26, 2016. We will host an orientation meeting at Batchelor on March 9 for all students invited to participate in the program. This is before acceptance forms are due on March 11. Appeals for placement recommendations are also due on March 11.

- **Middle School Math Placement:** Ms. Williams shared the language we came up with at our November meeting for the middle school course selection guides:

*All advanced middle school math placement must be coordinated and approved through the MCCSC High Ability Office.*

*We DO NOT recognize online courses for credit or placement.*

*We DO NOT permit middle school students to skip Algebra and move to Geometry Honors.*

We are hoping to begin the placement process for 2016-17 later this month. Jessica Willis has offered to help with Google Docs, etc. The middle school math adoption committee is looking to create a hybrid 7/8 course to be taught in the elementary school for students to move onto Algebra I in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **K-2 ID-identification** using the KOI will be this spring; we will work around the ISTEP schedule. We will need to administer a standardized cognitive assessment to K or 1 ASAP. The DOE believes this data will help with our underrepresented population at Title I schools. Ms. Williams will receive more information at a DOE meeting on February 25.

- 3. Middle School Math and World Language High School Credit Option:** We are delaying this process until late April so that students will have a better understanding of whether or not they want credit for high school math and world language classes taught in middle school. Ms. Williams will meet with eighth grade students at each middle school to review the process and distribute the forms.
- 4. High Ability Designation on Skyward:** The DOE is requesting that class rosters include high ability designation for identified high ability students. Ms. Williams will contact IS for their assistance.