

**Albuquerque Public Schools
Special Education
Gifted Advisory Committee**



Members:

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| 1) Casados, Roberta (Non-Decision Making Member), APS Co-Chair | 6. Baehr, Karen (School?) | 11. O'Malia, Rebecca |
| 2) Camacho, Melinda, Parent Co-Chair (SYJ ES & EMS) | 7. Curry, Heidi (School?) | 12. Osborn, Mike |
| 3) Osmon, Christy, Secretary (AAGTS) | 8. Kellogg, Karla (School?) | 13. Robinson, Kaycie |
| 4) Sutcliffe, Pamela (District Liason?) | 9. Kephart, Elisa (School?) | 14. Sanchez, Allen/Carolina |
| 5) Aguilar, Mike/Christine (School?) | 10. Norvell, Meghan (Zuni ES) | 15. Open |

GAC Agenda

Meeting Date: August 20, 2015 Meeting Time: 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

Agenda Item:	Presenter(s):	Time	Notes:
1 Introduction of New Members		5 min	Members: Non-Decision-making Members: Absent:
2 Appoint Timekeeper		1 min	
3 Approval of May Minutes	GAC members	3 min	
4 Membership Drive	Melinda Camacho	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposes creating a GAC Brochure for gifted parents in English and Spanish (similar to PAC's brochure but geared toward other spectrum-gifted, find PAC's brochure online at APS.org or http://www.aps.edu/special-education/parent-portal/parent-advisory-committee) Propose arranging for brochures to be delivered and/or emailed to school Special Ed Heads express instructions to email and/or give to all parents before and/or at gifted IEP meetings. Propose: GAC meets the 1st or 2nd Monday of each month from 6:15-7:45, leaving last 15 minutes for parents to get questions answered by district personnel.
5 GAC Meeting Day and Time	Melinda Camacho	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose APS/Special Education-Gifted Organization Chart online so parents know which APS-Gifted staff is responsible for their child (i.e. chain of command) Proposal of Goals – see attachment
6 Mission Statement and proposals	Melinda Camacho	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from discussion b/w Dr. Tafoya and Extensive level (C-Level) school principals. With everything that has been going on with C-level services lately (e.g. Zuni ES), it would be helpful to hear where things stand with the district and the principals.
7 Update on meeting held b/w Associate Superintendent Tafoya and	Roberta Casados	10 min	

Agenda Item:	Presenter(s):	Time	Notes:
School Principals, May 2015			
8 Recommendation to Executive Director	Elisa Kephart?	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and approve recommendation to the executive director.
9 High School Survey	Roberta Casados	5 min	
10 Special Education Family Support Line	Roberta Casados	1 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 505-855-9912
11 Future Topics	Melinda Camacho	5 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gifted Education Unit Presentations – possible ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRO IEP basics for gifted students by district personnel and/or AAGTS (http://www.aagts.org/) How to take legislative action for gifted services in NM (http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lesc) Invite professors who teach gifted education courses at UNM (http://catalog.unm.edu/catalogs/2010-2011/courses/SPCD/470-570.html) Learn how to tell your story, effectively communicate, and advocate for your gifted child Parental understanding of their role in IEPs
12 Future Agenda Items (or Leave Time Available so Parents can ask district personnel questions)		25 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of \$ for school year 2015-2016, for parents to attend training (registration fees only)? (PAC is allotted \$5000.00 for 2015-2016) Create a FAQs for Gifted Services on Special Education Website School Open House and/or Curriculum Nights: Any member/parent/school requests for GAC to attend Curriculum nights. Review and approve revised recommendations regarding expanding extensive level services? Comparison b/w results of first two years of testing? Minutes from GAC meetings to be posted online at APS Invite the Executive Director of Instruction and Accountability (Roseann McKernan) to explain what her department is doing to support advanced/accelerated academic curriculum in middle & high schools? (Include: math, science and language arts in middle school classes and Honors & AP courses in high school) Request a biannual report for Sept & May GAC meetings of what has been specifically done to help gifted/advanced students (1 item for middle and 1 item for high school). Member & Voting Status: members lose spot and/or voting status if absent 3 times in a row. Membership Criteria – see handout
13 Announcements			

2015-2016 Meeting Dates: August 20, September 10, October 15, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12

*Date & Time is subject to change

GAC Mentors: Rebecca O'Malia: omalialia@comcast.net

HAND OUT FOR AUGUST 17 GAC MEETING

PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT by Co-chair Melinda Comacho

The Gifted Advisory Committee will increase the success of students receiving gifted services by advocating for the families of these students and bridging the gap between APS and parents and families.

The Committee will advise and provide input to the APS Special Education- Department, utilize parent expertise & research-based best practices for students with gifted abilities while maintaining accountability for all individuals and services involved.

To carry out our mission we will:

- Identify areas of improvement and make recommendations to improve timely access to services and information.
- Advocate for change for families with gifted needs.
- Receive regular feedback about the implementation of our recommendations and the outcome of changes
- Improve process transparency

PROPOSALS by Co-chair Melinda Camacho

- Propose APS/Special Education-Gifted Organization Chart online so parents know which APS-Gifted staff is responsible for their child (i.e. chain of command)
- Goal 1: Help GAC members/parents to be more accessible to other parents of gifted students.
- Action 1: Melinda C. created Park Days at GOK Park (11411 San Victorio Ave NE) from 4-6pm every 3rd Saturday of the month (Aug-May) where kids can play together and parents talk.
- Goal 2: APS needs to be more responsive regarding gifted services for B and C level students.
- Action 2: Propose a monthly report from an APS Director for monthly GAC meeting explaining what APS has specifically done (in line with research, experts, and best practices) to help gifted students (monthly report to include 2 items for B level and 1 item for C level services).
- Goal 3: The process to receive gifted services needs to be more clear and straightforward (MANY parents have voiced confusion). Testing and placement needs to be justified as well as conform to research and best practices. Need fewer roadblocks and district approvals during process.

Action 3: Create/publish a Sample Gifted Services Flowchart on the APS website with the process a parent may undergo by having their child tested for giftedness (in English & Spanish). In conjunction with the flowchart, include: how to start the process, possible staff involved, testing procedures, how to obtain testing results, necessary meetings, possible timelines, where to file complaints, etc.). Specifically, provide details about testing results and placement options (include: percentage cutoffs, how factors might be considered, and all placement options). *Idea: make up 2 sample case studies (a fictional Julia and Jose?) that were tested for giftedness in K or 1st grade.