

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Gifted & Talented Education (GATE)
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
District Office-Conference Room J2 & J3
Monday, May 15, 2017 6:30-8:00 PM
Minutes

Present: Christine Gerges, Charles Chang, Cynthia Collins, Eileen Hartfelder, Wendi Nelson, Bela Patel, Christine Peng, Michelle Venckus, Stella Wong, Cathleen Corella, Laura Kresl

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Cathleen Corella.

Welcome-Introductions

All present introduced themselves with their names and the schools they represented.

Approval of Minutes

Eileen H. motioned to approve the January 30, 2017 minutes as presented. Michelle V. second the motion. No changes were needed. Motion carries.

Presentation

Laura Kresl summarized the district's Strategic Arts Advantage Plan

- The district has a robust arts plan
- At the 5th and 6th Grade level students have an option to either play an instrument or be put into an integrated arts wheel where they do half of a year in visual arts, theater or general music and the other half in one of the other options.

The council then broke out into collaborative groups to discuss the following focus areas:

- **Arts For All**
 - Some issues include that some middle school and high schools don't have visual arts so the experience from middle school to high school is inconsistent
 - Some schools did not have enough instruments
 - Sometimes many kids pick the same instrument so the class size is overwhelming – which is not the best environment conducive to learning
 - Maybe more teachers are needed to provide the children with the first choice of instruments
 - Or another solution might be to have split classes offered at the same time
- **Qualified Staff**
 - Parents commented on how kids are really learning how to read music – even kids who had never taken music lessons before
 - Kids that completed VAPA have gone straight into advanced band at 7th grade

- **Curriculum And Professional Development**
- **Program Management**
 - The question was asked why is it split so that kids spend either half of the year in visual arts and theater and the other half of the year doing general music
 - At some schools theater is popular and but not available on the wheel
 - It would be nice if student's interests were assessed for wheel offerings
 - Adding a summer arts camp would be a nice opportunity to have for kids
 - Field trip opportunities for 4th grade students to expose students to various arts disciplines prior to starting VAPA would also be a nice addition
- **Equitable and Sustainable Funding**
 - With the increase of student interest from Elementary VAPA – need additional sections/instruments/maintenance at secondary level
 - Fundraising opportunities
- **Community Outreach Education**
 - Secondary level program with the Pacific Symphony
 - Part of the program will be to meet the musicians through the Phil Harmonic (a free program)
 - Will go to the cabinet next week for review to get funding or assistance with these suggestions

Curriculum Office Report

Cathleen Corella discussed the Community Advisory Committee Calendar for 2017-2018

- August 28, 2017
- November 27, 2017
- February 26, 2018
- May 21, 2018

Cathleen is hoping that each school would have at least 1 representative to capture people's voices for where things can improve

Meetings will be moved to mornings to hopefully improve attendance and also so that maybe principals of schools can attend the meetings

There will also be presentations offered throughout the year during the day and at night

School Reports

Members shared the activities going on at their individual schools.

Public Comment

None