



GREATER DANE COUNTY
**TALENTED AND GIFTED
NETWORK**

WWW.GREATERDANETAG.ORG

May 12, 2011

8:00 – 8:30 WELCOME AND NETWORKING

SENG Training Update by Lynda Oleinik—SENG Training May 20 and 21 in Stoughton. Parents are needed to participate in Friday night’s practice session. Message sent out on the WIS-Gift. Each district should recruit parents to participate in the practice discussion session

State and National Update by Cindy Clark, WATG Board Member & Advocacy Committee Chair

Talent Act: Senate Bill: S.857 and House Bill: H.R. 1674 To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation’s Teachers (TALENT) Act Includes:

Changes to assessment and accountability systems;

Emphasis on classroom practice— authorizes a Professional Development and Best Practices Grant Program. WI is proposing that 3 credits in Gifted Education be included in all teacher training programs;

Focuses on underserved populations (includes rural populations in addition to poverty, with an emphasis on research and dissemination. More information about this act can be found at <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=585>.

Javitz Grant is identified as an Ear mark and considered a “Pet” project for a special interest group. Therefore it is not a viable option anymore. The Talent Act replaces it.

Advocacy: Contact Wisconsin Senators and Representatives ASAP to ask them to cosponsor the TALENT Act (S.857 in the Senate; H.R. 1674 in the House). E-mails are better than letters because letters are scanned before they are delivered and may never reach your legislators: The message can be simple:

“As a (parent/teacher/supporter) of gifted and talented children, I strongly believe that federal education policy should support high-ability students so that they receive an education appropriate to their needs. As a constituent I ask that you become a cosponsor of the TALENT Act (Insert the correct bill number for the House or Senate) which addresses the needs of advanced students through professional development, accountability, and dissemination of classroom practices shown to work with this special population of learners. Thank you for your attention” (Compiled by NAGC)

Personal testimonials from parents in particular add power to the request—the impact of quality gifted education or additional information about the availability of gifted education in your district. Be sure to include your contact information.

This is an independent piece of legislation. It is OK to “hound” your legislators. The more requests they get the better.

Senate Members: Ron Johnson at: ronjohnson.sentate.gov; Herb Kohl at kohl.sentate.gov

House Members: Paul Ryan at paulryan.house.gov; Tammy Baldwin at tammybaldwin.house.gov and Ron Kind at ronkind.house.gov.

Advocacy Toolkit: NAGC has developed a **toolkit** to help supporters become stronger advocates. This includes fast facts about gifted and talented and why we need to advocate for students and programs; who works on issues and how to contact them, effective communication strategies, forming and finding support groups, local advocacy, assessing the legislative landscape at the state level; the federal legislative process and how to communicate effectively with Congress. To find out more, here is the link to the NAGC Advocacy Web page <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=36>

The Advocacy Tool Kit will be presented at a break-out at the WATG conference this fall.

State of the State—unsure of the outcome of the current initiatives; there will be DPI GT Grants for this year. They are for individual services for students. It appears that the funding for AP courses will be going away...districts will need to pick up the cost if they're not already. We are hoping that Chrys Mursky's positive (the GT Representative at the DPI) will be retained.

The Finance Committee Chairs, Roberta Darling and Robin Voss advocate that nonfiscal items in the budget should be discussed as separate bills. There is quite a list but among them are education items such as the repeal of the requirement of 180 days, the Reading Specialist, etc. Cindy will send us the reference to these.

Funding that underwrites expenses for WCATY will go away (from the state and from the university). Therefore, the cost to districts will go up.

WATG: Our State Conference: Head, Heart, Hands of Gifted Education. Held at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells for October 6 & 7. The Board is concerned about numbers due to lack of support for the GT folks in the state. They may need to consider regional conferences as opposed to a state conference. Recommend “new teachers” or those who find themselves in a gifted position attend the preconference session GT 101.

Other

Waunakee is looking for a **half time elementary level position** in gifted. They would like a person who is an experienced/successful classroom teacher if they can not find someone with experience as a resource teacher for the gifted and talented. .

New teachers frequently have had training in **differentiation**. Need to “flip” this idea to those who are gifted and need special differentiation.

3-Credit Course: Sharon Daly is offering an online course on **Differentiation to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners** for 3 credits this summer. This course is designed for teachers who work with students in grades K-12 and will offer practical strategies and extensive resources to address the needs of diverse learners. It is not exclusively focused on GT students, however their needs are included and

addressed. The connections between differentiated practice and RtI initiatives and implementation will also be covered.

She will be accepting enrollments until the end of May, and will cap the class at 25 or so. It will run between June 20th and August 12th (no class expectations the week of July 4th). There will be three face-to-face meetings. The dates will be determined: One will be the first week of the course, the second in mid July, and the third the last week of the course. The text will be *Making Differentiation a Habit: How to Ensure Success in Academically Diverse Classrooms* by Diane Heacox.

Future professional Development idea: have a work day with a collaborative partner—ways to present Technology Tools to students and let them experiment with their use.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Jeri Schumacher, Oregon Middle School ITLT (Informational Technology Literacy Teacher)

Jeri offered ideas for using engaging technologies to try in 2011-2012 to integrate technology. Included in her presentation was the following:

Students make their own games: Some schools offer a “Gaming” Class. Very motivating for students!

- SCRATCH— <http://scratch.mit.edu> free download. Good for problem-solving—math, planning. Can upload them into the Wiki and they can play each other’s games and discuss, make comments, write technical directions
- ARIS— <http://arisgames.org/> making mobile games. Another site Mobile games about Vilas Zoo; find out which animal had the virus
- Kodu <http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/kodu/> another download a Microsoft product. More elementary and you can make games for your X-Box
- Corona <http://www.anscamobile.com/>Gaming and Learning Society has a conference this summer

Wikis are a good way for student to showcase their work or work on a group project. You can use a wiki to collaborate with a group and others can comment on your work. PB Works <http://www.pbworks.com> and Wiki Spaces <http://www.wikispaces.com>

Blogs are used to reflect on learning and to showcase work samples and affects. Good for student-led conferencing. <http://www.blogger.com>

Movie/Making:

- Microsoft Photostory 3 <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=92755126-A008-49B3-B3F4-6F33852AF9C1&displaylang=en>
- Jay Cut <http://www.jaycut.com> This has to be downloaded from: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=92755126-A008-49B3-B3F4->

[6F33852AF9C1&displaylang=en](#) Use Microsoft photo store for digital stories JayCut.com. Can upload their own video and work on it at home

- Moviemaker-part of the Microsoft Office Suite
- Animoto <http://www.animoto.com>
- <http://www.stupeflix.com/>

Podcasts and Audio Files:

- Audacity—free download
- <http://ujam.com>
- Voice thread: <http://voicethread.com/> presentation software plus audio. Talk about books with students from other school districts. Good for school board presentations and staff development

Posters: Create animated or regular posters

- Glogster.com—animated poster
- <http://www.bighugelabs.com>

Comic Strips:

- <http://www.bitstrips.com/>
- <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>
- Toondoo <http://www.toondoo.com/>: make believe comments; book reports, show school rules (or mock them) dress code—political commentary, etc.

Animations:

- Sketchfoo: <http://sketchfu.com/>
- <http://www.xtranormal.com/>
- <http://goanimate.com/>

Research and Study Skills

- <http://www.diigo.com/>
- <http://quizlet.com/>
- <http://www.cobocards.com/en>

Recommendations:

Because these files tend to be very big, use The Cloud to store the information. Also makes it accessible for others in your group to view it.

Need to model good posts and good comments. If done' with another school, the comments elevate just because of the modeling and competition. Choose the presentation style depending on your audience.

Digital Diet—a book on how to get started with digital communication.

Information is included in her Wiki which can be found at <http://opportunities4kids.wikispaces.com/>

Scott Peters from UW-Whitewater

- CESA2/UWW Grant Proposal: Summer 2012 Institute—UWW collaboration with CESA 2. NAGC Academy. Gifted Coordinator Certification: 4 basic courses plus one more course. 2012 along with institute. Can offer a class up to 50% off if it meets a certain amount of criteria. UWW is now able to offer the accreditation at the undergraduate level and price. Content is the same. The only difference is the cost. Some need the graduate credit but some just want the accreditation and not the grad credit. Starting another 4- course rotation. All courses offered as hybrid courses.
- WATG Credit-- Pre-conference session at WATG one credit will be half price ☺ can be applied to the license. May be able to get the three credits three years in a row.
- Summer and Fall G/T courses. Google WhitewaterGifted for updates on courses, UW-SPO credits. They are making sure that the standards are covered. Credit is also offered for a portfolio.

BUSINESS MEETING

- Call to order
- Minutes – Kitty Ver Kuilen—report submitted to the membership and available on the website
- Treasurer's Report – Kristy Champion report submitted to the membership

ORGANIZATION UPDATES

- UNIVERSITY OF WI & WCATY—uncertain as to funding for WCATY. Advocacy is needed!
- WATG—update from Cindy earlier. Encourage folks to attend the state conference
- CESA 2—no report
- Madison Metropolitan School District: found not compliant. Undergoing evaluation. Now everyone is asking questions about how to best meet the needs of gifted kids. Hired a new coordinator for the district.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Professional Development** – Amy Miller, Kris Joannes, & Barb Hoeft--21st Century learning as an umbrella for the focal point. Amy, Sharon, Kris, Melissa, Martha—plan for next year FPS meets those skills. It is the “Headwear” of 21st Century skills. Non-competitive curricular integration.
- **Identification/Rtl** – Lori Mueller & Janelle Dorn—The Tiered document has been added to GDCTG Website. Advocate, Advocate, Advocate. Use of data walls helps the conversation related to the needs for gifted students. Need to document growth. Be careful that MAP tests top out. May need to move a student who maxed out to the next level. (2 – 5; 6 – 10) What do we do with it? When are kids beyond it?

FUNCTION GROUPS

- **Sunshine** – Barb Hoeft; new baby card to Ola @ WCATY; Ruth Robinson retiring; Sue Gehn also retiring
- **Administrators Breakfast** – Barb Hoeft & Amy Miller. Place was lovely! Perhaps looking at same location or the UW-Madison Discovery building.

STUDENT PROGRAM GROUPS

Look at thinking skills as we evaluate the value of a program; We do this program because _____ (fill in the blank). Also looking at the number of districts that participate in the program to determine if we should continue to offer it.

Consider offering **Future Problem Solving** as a GDCTG Competition as we know that it is good for gifted kids!

- **Yahara River Writers** – Martha Barlow –discussion of benefits of Yahara contest—Renzulli approach—cast a wide net. Helps “find” those who have strong writing abilities and insights into students’ gifts. Kitty suggesting changing the rubric to reflect Six Traits language.
 - **Yahara Judging Chair Still Needed**
- **Math 24** – Lindsay Passwaters. Consider using positive and negative integers at the 6th grade level. Would need to purchase tournament decks but the organization could afford to do this.
- **Math Meets** – Kitty VerKuilen; completed an item analysis for the test writer and have some suggestions to make the language of the directions more direct. Edgewood College and UW-Madison Math Department continue to support the Mega Meets.
- Ted Widierski Scholarship
- Haiku –Carol Mason will now coordinate Haiku

NEW BUSINESS

- Money Market Account-Process for Requesting Funds if we need to we will Kitty moved; Amy second
- Ways for GDCTGN to recognize students—this is a great idea but we don't want to make MORE work for ourselves. Need ideas that could be easily implemented

Executive Officers for Next Year:

- President: Amy Miller
- VP: Lucia Rowley will check to see if she can do this. If she can't Laura Borsecnik is interested
- Treasurer: Kristy Champion
- Secretary: Kitty Ver Kuilen

Fall meeting date.....September 20

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45 Lori Mueller moved; Sharon Daly second

Respectfully Submitted: Kitty Ver Kuilen