**NOTES**

**AEI Feedback Council**

**June 6, 2012**

**Division of Acceleration and Enriched Instruction**

**7:00 p.m.–8:45 p.m.**

**Room 50, CESC**

**ATTENDEES**

**Mary Bliss**,Farmland ES; **Monique Felder**, AEI; **Michelle Gluck**, MCCPTA; **Hugo** **Escobar**, HBFMD; **Amanda Graver**, MCCPTA; **Dan Lee,** AAS; **Faye Liu**, AAS; **Marjorie Lope**, AEI; **Naomi Leslie**,MCEF; **Fred Stichnoth**, GTA; and **Anne Taylor**, DEIP

**MEETING ROLES**

* Note-taker—Anne Taylor
* Time Keeper—Naomi Lesley
* Recorder—Monique Felder

**MEETING OUTCOMES**

*By the end of the meeting, AEI feedback council will have:*

* Welcomed all Council members
* Reviewed and approved January’s meeting notes and Ground Rules
* Debriefed the Superintendent’s GT Forum and shared implications for AEI’s work
* Identified next steps; identified future meeting dates and times; reviewed action items; and, evaluated the meeting.

**MEETING NOTES:**

* Monique welcomed all Council members and asked each to introduce him/herself. Monique informed the Council that Naomi is relocating out of state effective this summer. Monique thanked her serving on the Council and wished her well in her future endeavors. She also informed the Council that Amanda was sitting in for Ted, who could not attend the meeting. After the welcome and introductions, Monique led the Council in a review of the January 25, 2012 meeting notes and Ground Rules. Monique distributed links to the mindset resources presented by Mary Cay Ricci, instructional specialist, Division of Acceleration and Enriched Instruction (AEI) at the last meeting. Monique said she would send the mindset reources electronically with June’s notes for ease with accessing links provided by Mary Cay.
* Monique provided updates about the following work in AEI:
  + Watkins Mill High School’s Gifted and Talented Learning Disabled (GT/LD) program received an Outstanding Educator Program Award from the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA).
  + Two AEI instructional specialists were selected to present at national conferences.   
    Marisa Stemple will present at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) annual conference in the fall and Elizabeth (Libby) Rogovoy will present at the International Baccalaureate Conference of the Americas in July.
  + AEI is offering 13 summer trainings including 3 Continued Professional Development (CPD) course credits to support accelerated and enriched instruction. Course topics include developing critical thinking skills using Junior Great Books and Jacob’s Ladder, differentiating instruction/responsive teaching, and integrating Common Core instruction in the Middle School Magnet Consortia (MSMC) Programs. Monique also mentioned that AEI and Curriculum 2.0 staff will train teachers and school leaders in mathematics instruction per C 2.0 in June. One Council member expressed parent concerns that the implementation of Curriculum 2.0 in Grades K–2 has been inconsistent and asked for additional professional development for teachers.

Another Council member encouraged AEI to provide professional development on culturally responsive teaching/instruction.

* Margie provided the following updates related to applications programs:
  + Instructional specialists from AEI and other MCPS departments have conducted full-day school walk-throughs to monitor instruction in the International Baccalaureate (IB) and MSMC programs. Feedback, commendations and recommendations were provided to schools.
  + There are 17 IB programmes including three new ones at Neelsville Middle School, Montgomery Village Middle School, and Watkins Mill High School. Five new IB coordinators will start July 1, 2012.
  + AEI is holding a Middle School Magnet Academy for teachers from Eastern High School, Takoma Park Middle School, and Roberto Clemente Middle School. These sessions will focus on meeting the needs of highly able learners focusing on social studies, English, media production, and computer science. AEI will help teachers develop lessons and curriculum units. Changes will be published in materials for parents and distributed at “Back-to-School” nights.
* The Council reviewed a summary of the participants’ feedback from the Superintendent’s GT forum held March 22, 2012. Two Council members said they received e-mails from parents who were expecting a “Listen and Learn” format and did not feel like the forum’s structure and content was a good use of their time. They said parents would like to hear the Superintendent’s vision for gifted and talented education.
* The Council reviewed the summary feedback and identified the following themes and patterns in the data related to AEI’s work:

1. Concerns about the implementation of Curriculum 2.0
2. Increase access to programs and close equity gaps. Create more GT programs. Increase the number of seats in magnet programs or more expansive GT programming in schools
3. Improve communication with Parents/Community (i.e., Inform parents of the process and the scope of services)
4. Provide more professional development for GT staff and all staff working with highly able students in schools
5. Improve clarity re: the vision for GT education in MCPS; more transparency
6. Parents expressed anxiety over pathways and acceleration (i.e., At what age should we separate kids? How are we providing rigor for all students?)
7. More access to magnet programs—

* larger percentage of students are separated out from other students
* focus on models of cooperation

1. Early identification does not mean early separation
2. Differentiation → not clear what it looks like

* The Council made the following recommendations related to professional development, support to schools, parent/family outreach as well as screening and selection:

1. Reconsider *Train The Trainer* model for system professional development, as it is not the best PD model
2. Encourage teachers to make connections between culturally responsive training and AEI training
3. Develop a more selective process for selecting/hiring teachers for magnet programs
4. MCPS needs to put more power/muscle behind suggestions on best instructional practices for highly able students to decrease variability
5. Encourage all teachers to meet need of GT students
6. Publish criteria for magnet selection (transparency is needed)
7. What is MCPS’s intention for GT education in the future? Is AEI in an advocacy role? Can this role be strengthened?
8. Provide professional development for differentiation and acceleration in mathematics embedded in Curriculum 2.0
9. Teachers should receive training for teaching GT kids in subjects other than math. Make sure teachers can articulate standards.
10. Provide more clarity from schools to parents

* A Council member suggested including a discussion about the new COMAR regulation and MCPS compliance on the next agenda
* As the meeting concluded Monique informed Council members that they could leave their individual GT Forum feedback sheets with her. Amanda informed the Council that she will be replacing Ted on the Council next year.

**ACTION ITEMS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What** | **Who** | **By When** |
| Implement an AEI professional development newsletter for teachers | AEI | 1st semester FY 13 |
| Survey Council members to identify dates and times for next year’s meetings. | Monique | July 1, 2012 |

**MEETING EVALUATION**

* Dialogue opportunities
* Speaking our truths
* Different point of view
* Consensus
* Multiple formats
* Not enough snacks consumed
* Collect all feedback

**NEXT MEETING:** TBD