Gifted Child Committee Report Submitted by: Audra Dove

November 2020 gifted@mccpta.org

**Selected Meetings/Calls/Events**

August Meeting with AEI and College/Career Readiness

GCC planning meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

September GCC planning meeting

Board of Directors meeting

Family Engagement meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

GCC meeting with Special Ed Committee

October GCC communications meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Black and Brown Coalition Meeting

**Upcoming**

November Meeting with AEI

Board of Directors Meeting

GCC GT Community Zoom

January Meeting with MCPS Special Ed in conjunction with MCCPTA Special Ed

**Key Activities/Concerns**

1. **ELC and middle school expansion courses**

The ELC was supposed to be evaluated at the end of the 2019-2020 school year (its third year of implementation) and a report was to be given to BOE in July. That has not yet happened. Only 40 elementary schools offer the Enriched Literacy Curriculum to highly able students. Highly able students from other schools must rely on staff willingness to use the AEI Guidebook that was created last year to specifically meet the needs of highly able students who receive the Benchmark Advanced curriculum. There is no current data regarding what schools/teachers are actually implementing use of the Guidebook.

We have been advocating alongside Loiederman MS on behalf of the DCC to implement the magnet Inquiries into Global Humanities expansion course. DCC middle schools are the only three schools who don't offer the course. Parents have been told it's because the DCC schools are magnets and that their curriculum already imbeds enrichment and extensions. While the enrichment and extensions may be found within electives, GCC can find no evidence of any enrichment or extension revolving around World Studies curriculum. We have requested that AEI lobby to have Global Humanities courses placed in the DCC schools in fall of 2021. the Loiederman PTSA has been advocating internally as well. Their new principal agrees that the course should be offered and has stated that she has staff and flexibility to offer it. It's her understanding that all of the DCC schools must agree to offer the course or none of them can offer it. She will be lobbying for it alongside the PTA and GCC.

1. **GT COMAR Developments**

Over the summer, AEI finalized the partnership with Johns Hopkins University to provide the GT Certification program MCPS teacher cohorts. The first cohort will enter the program in spring 2021. Around 20-25 teachers will be permitted.

1. **Rollout of the new curriculum**

As a result of Distance Learning, the timeline for new curriculum rollout in elementary and middle schools accelerated. In fall of 2020, elementary schools were required to fully implement Eureka (math) and Benchmark Advanced (language arts). Middle schools were required to rollout both Learn Zillion (math) and Study Synch (language arts). None of these curricula offer ample programming for highly able students. Noting this, AEI created the Benchmark Advanced AEI Guidebook for teachers to use with highly able students for fall of 2019. However, there's not data on how many teachers used it in 2019 or use it currently. MCPS worked with Eureka over the summer to create compacted math 4/5 and 5/6 curricula. That work is still ongoing. Applied IM (AIM), IM 6 and Geometry/Honors Geometry in MS is still based on 2.0 curriculum. Algebra 1 is Learn Zillion.

1. **Global Screening for 20019-2020 and 2020-2021 second graders**

Due to COVID restrictions and mandatory school closure in spring of 2020, Global GT screening did not occur. As of September, MCPS had not yet determined a course of action.

1. **Universal screening and subsequent magnet program testing for 3rd, 5th and 8th graders**

AEI and DCCAPS have been working together to evaluate whether magnet entrance exams will be given. Typically, the CogAT is administered to 3rd, 5th and 8th graders during the fall/winter as a data point for potential acceptance into GT magnet programs. Due to concerns surrounding virtual administration of the test (technology issues for students, potential cheating, etc.), MCPS has not yet determined whether it will administer a test. Applications for high school magnets were due on 11/6. Typically, DCCAPS uses PARCC, MAP, grades and CogAT test scores to evaluate students for acceptance. Given that neither PARCC nor MAP metrics are available for spring and the MAP metrics taken this fall were specifically NOT for magnet consideration, GCC has asked for updates regarding how students will be fairly evaluated for magnet programs.

1. **Expanding communication with MCPS GT community and cross pollination with other advocacy groups**

Distributed an open call for GT Liaisons and GCC committee participation. We will host our first GCC zoom meeting this month. The agenda will include updates about magnet program admission, GT enrichment expectations, GT resources and advocacy avenues. We will also launch our FB page and work with the MCCPTA Communications Committee to update information on the MCCPTA website and or the MCCPTA FB page.

1. **Elementary compacted math**

In 2019-2020, at the third quarter AEI Feedback Council meeting, it was disclosed that a plan to implement compacted math 4/5 for ALL 4th graders was underway. Given distance learning, that plan is now on hold; however, GCC continues to question the purpose and validity of pushing all students into any accelerated course.

GCC advocated on behalf of an elementary school whose compacted 4/5 class has 40+ students. Curriculum Director, Brenda Lewis is working with the school's Area Director to rectify the issue. While there is a paraeducator in the class, students and parents feel that is not enough support for the number of students (especially since the para is not a math teacher).