



**Gifted Association of Missouri  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
November 8, 2014**

A quorum being present, President Robin Lady called the meeting to order. Debbie Green moved to approve the agenda and Cindy Turner seconded. Agenda approved. Minutes from the September meeting were discussed. Debbie Green moved to approve the amended minutes from the September 13, 2014 meeting as amended and Tad Droste seconded. Motion passed.

### **Finance Report-Finance VP (Shannon Fuller)**

We are in a transition period from outgoing to incoming. We don't have a final report as we are switching banks. We are transitioning from Bank of America to US Bank. We are also switching credit cards to better serve our membership. We will have a budget to approve at the February meeting.

### **GAM Board Guidelines**

President Robin Lady reviewed the GAM Board Guidelines provided to all GAM board members including information about tax exempt letters, a simplified Robert's rules of orders, and Board Member roles. Debbie Green moved that we approved the Board Guidelines, Ginger Beaird seconded. Discussion—Robin said that it was sent out for preapproval and had already made slight changes to it before it was printed for this meeting. Questions were asked to clarifying information about Executive Board and that it was the Executive Committee's responsibility to be involved with soliciting scholarship nominations. Motion passed.

### **President (Robin Lady)**

Welcome to the GAM Board! I am so excited to serve on this board with you for the next two years. By working collaboratively, I've seen the board make a difference over the last 12 years, a trend we will continue to improve on over the next 24 months. We've seen many improvements over the last decade in GAM including an updated and functional website, the ability to take online payment, and the development of new and useful task forces. On the advocacy front, GAM's effective advocacy led to passing legislation that added gifted to the accountability report card for school districts, returned the DESE Director of Gifted Position to full time, and created a statewide Gifted Advisory Council. Even with all of these positives, fighting for gifted kids continues to be a challenging battle. GAM has had some low points including the loss of categorical funding, the decrease of state approved gifted programs in Missouri, a drop in membership and conference attendance, and a loss of revenue causing a move from a hotel to a university setting for our annual conference. I truly feel that GAM has a positive future. I only listed the low points in order to establish the reality of where we are. I believe we are on an upswing. For example, our 2014 conference had 50 more attendees than our 2013 conference. Also, since conference we are seeing an increase in membership with approx. 375 current and 75 pending. Below are some milestones I would like to see GAM achieve before my presidency ends: Increase conference attendance to over 300 and membership to over 500; pass an incentive based funding system for gifted programs in Missouri; and make GAM a recognized name in all Missouri educational settings, public, private, parochial, higher education, and educational committees in our legislature. By working together, I am confident we can reach these goals and beyond. Thank you for volunteering your time, energy, expertise and experience for the 46, 619 gifted students in Missouri, you are valued and appreciated. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the field of gifted education in the state of Missouri.

### **Executive Vice President (Lenae Lazzelle)**

Lenae was excited to be a part of conference in October felt that there was a light in the conference. Thanks to all that participated and worked on the conference. She is so excited to have Robin Lady as a President and is here to support her and the gifted students of Missouri.

### **Membership Vice President (Meredith Burstin)**

Current membership is at 295 (sorry, I sent out a ton of invoices this week, hoping to get a few more responses before I leave for the lake). While invoices have been sent to everyone who has joined online, there are still at least 80 open invoices (meaning they have been sent but not paid). The question, obviously, is why people are wanting to join but are not responding their invoices since they being sent to their preferred email addresses based on their membership forms. We are confident that we can continue to improve our membership enrollment online process.

### **Conference Vice President (Debbie Green)**

Conference location is set to be Memorial Union on the Mizzou Campus. One idea is to change from a Ballyhoo and a reception to combining them to a make it and take it meeting. Two parking garages are close and available. We will have a technology person available and an auditorium for keynote speakers. Several classrooms are available with lounge areas available around breakout rooms. Stoney Creek is the hotel that we are looking at right now. It is a new building and they have been very supportive and helpful to this time.

## **State Director of Gifted/Advisory Council (David Welch)**

### ***Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children***

The next statewide advisory council on gifted meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2014 in Jefferson City. The members of the Council are working on establishing an annual report containing recommendations for improving the rules, regulations, and policies governing gifted education in Missouri.

### ***Steven Morgan Ferman Memorial Fund***

You can view the brochure on the Department gifted web page: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/qs-gifted-Ferman-Brochure-new2014.pdf> The Communication section has also put a notice on the Department Facebook and twitter sites. Hopefully this will generate donations to build up the principal amount in the fund so we can go back to using the fund to support more activities to promote gifted education around the state.

### ***Visualizing ELL Potential***

The Migrant Education (MELL) section in the Department is sponsoring a conference in Kansas City on November 19-21 that is bringing Dr. James Castellano to present on *Talent Development of Gifted ELL's*. There will also be sessions titled ask DESE and Gifted ELL that the Director of ELL Programs has asked me to present. The ELL section is graciously paying for my participation in their conference. I hope this will provide opportunities for expansion of this traditionally underrepresented population in Missouri gifted programming. More information can be found on the Department MELL website: <http://muconf.missouri.edu/Mell/>

### **National Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG) and NAGC Conference**

The Department has found the resources to provide me an opportunity to attend the Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted National Meetings in conjunction with the NAGC National Conference in Baltimore in November. I look forward to attending both the CSDPG and NAGC Conference to work with my colleagues across the country to discover new and exciting things going on in gifted research and practice.

### **Commissioner of Education**

Commissioner Nicastro has announced her resignation effective December 31, 2014. The State Board of Education has announced the process they will follow to replace the Commissioner. You can see the announcement and application for the Commissioner's position on the Department website at this link: <http://dese.mo.gov/communications/news-releases/process-selection-new-commissioner-missouri-department-elementary-and> Please note item number 2 on this link - **The public is invited to provide recommendations on the factors/characteristics to be considered by the State Board in evaluating candidates. Additional factors to those already identified under "Characteristics of a Qualified Applicant" should be forwarded to the attention of Robin Coffman by close of business on Nov. 21, 2014.**

### **Legislative Consultant (Kyna Iman)**

The election is over and Amendment 3 failed in every county! Several progifted legislators were defeated in the election. However, sponsors of the gifted legislation will be back next session. Kyna requested GAM members to contact our local legislators and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor for the gifted "weight" legislation. The basic explanation is to put a weight in the language that would be similar to the special education funding. Kyna also requested more letters to the governor to urge him to release the funding for the Scholars' and Fine Arts Academies.

The Speaker of the House is traveling the state looking for 100 great ideas to move the state forward. Kyna will forward the website that people can submit ideas. It would be great to have each person give feedback that there should be considerations for gifted students.

## **Committee Reports**

### **GAMbit -Sheila Bonner**

I would like to share a letter from Dr. Steve Coxon from Maryville University in St. Louis. He makes several good points as to why the GAM board should consider making the GAMbit freely available and distributing it electronically as widely as possible. His reasons include:

- 1.) It is a high quality newsletter
- 2.) our vast majority of membership is more likely garnered through conference attendance and not the GAMbit
- 3.) more people would attend the conference
- 4.) extending the mission of GAM
- 5.) to provide a great audience for promoting advocacy
- 6.) higher revenues due to more sales for advertisers

I would also like to share a possible money making project for our website, using past GAMbit articles written by our members. I have a few paper copies of our FALL GAMbit newsletter to pass on to Kyna for advocacy. I felt that the article written by Shanell Haney was extremely well written and informative!

### **Scholarship - Sue Thompspon**

One goal for the upcoming year is to make sure to keep communication to make sure that we get nominations from all over the state for scholarships and Nicholas Green award. We are considering updating and streamlining the process to make it easier.

### **Teacher Education – Heather Tomicich**

The New Teachers to Gifted Workshop is underway. The dates have been confirmed as Monday, July 20 and Tuesday, July 21 at Lindenwood University's Spellman Center. The GAM Board will again have a luncheon on Tuesday with the workshop attendees. The flier is being posted to the GAM site this month & hope to have online registration ready by December.

### **Parent Network – Dixie Youngers**

I look forward to partnering with all the individuals on the board. One idea for the parent network is to spotlight districts that have good programs, offer it up to parents, and to help with advocacy. Dixie is looking to increase parent memberships by 10% and then use the GAM's Facebook and Twitter presences to improve advocacy. What can we do to advocate for more money being allocated to bright flight scholarships.

### **Tech/Web Page – Seth Jaeger**

I am open formatting issues and ideas as to how the webpage can better benefit the district. Additionally, we have hooked it up to Google Analytics and it shows that we are having about 600 visits per month. We will be able to track how many visits are new visits and repeat visits. We are continually looking for ideas to update the website.

### **Legislative/Public Issues –Sarah Ludlow**

Gifted education week is Tuesday, February 24 in the Rotunda. The poetry contest is on the website. There is an email address created for the contest and we would like to encourage people to bring kids to the day. To have the students announced then students needs to be in the room by 9:45 as they will be announced at 10:00.. Please email Sarah with numbers.

### **Public Relations–Brian Stuhlman**

I was trying to envision what this new position would look like and work on. I can see that the future of it is working with communication and all of the things that we discussed at the meetings today. Getting information from the kids and parents about what we can do for them. Also working from MSA and getting them more involved.

## **District Reports A-H**

### **District A (Kristy Jackson D, Tad Droste AD)**

I am excited for the opportunity to network with other educators of the gifted within District D. Currently, the district is exploring different opportunities to increase networking, provide professional development, and share strategies for supporting our gifted students and their families. The first step is brainstorming. Ideas for conferences, workshops, and Twitter Chats were tossed around at the conference. Members of District D will receive an email survey that will help determine specific needs along with their priority levels, and how to efficiently meet those needs.

### **District B—(Diana Casebolt D, Jennifer Medina AD)**

We are planning our District B conference for February 21<sup>st</sup> at Oak Grove Middle School. Dr. Robin Lady has agreed to be our parent speaker. We would invite all GAM board members to participate in our conference as our board meeting will be held on this day as well. If you would like to lead a student session or have a topic you would like to talk with our parents about please contact Diana Casebolt.

### **District C Report (Cindy Turner D)**

District C has only a director and after meeting with district members they felt that they needed collaboration between themselves. The district director will be organizing a teacher collaboration event in the Spring. More details to come. At this time we do not have the resources to have GEM day but hope after the teacher collaboration we can bring that back for next year. The director will be sending out a Google form to get ideas for future events and who can provide resources for these events.

### **District D (Jana Gentry Smith D, Ashli Eaves AD)**

There hasn't been done outside of the school district is expanding outside the Springfield School district. A survey has been created to find out what exactly is the interest of people in the district like a Twitter Chat or a parent conference or a teacher meeting. She is interested in doing a monthly twitter chat

### **District E (Ginger Beaird D, Anne Crader AD)**

District E is in the early planning stages for a district conference to be held in the Spring, possibly in Poplar Bluff, MO on a Friday. We have discussed various topics for our meeting. We would like to welcome Tad Romsa as the new District E Assistant Director!

### **District F (Ellen Stuhlman AD)**

No report.

### **District G (Vicky Bennett D, Ann Seider AD)**

We are planning on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at Shakespeare's Pizza. We are working on a conference for January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**District H (Stacy Davis D)**

We are a one man show and getting conference together at a college or university. We have not had a Regional Conference in the last couple of years.

**Task Force Reports**

**A. Higher Education (Kris Wiley)** Task force membership: Dr. Steve Coxon, Maryville University; Nancy Gerardy, University of Missouri; Mary Gismegian, Lindenwood University; Dr. Kristofor Wiley, Drury University

Immediately following the induction of new board members at the state conference for GAM, Dr. Coxon and Dr. Wiley met with newly minted GAM President Robin Lady to discuss priorities for the task force. The first priority to emerge from the meeting was advocacy for mandatory coursework in gifted education for all pre--service teachers. The existing industry standard typically provides one or two lectures on giftedness as part of a larger class on exceptional children, but we hold that this is not enough to prepare classroom teachers for the curricular, instructional, and affective needs of their high ability students. It is the position of the task force that a full course on the characteristics of gifted students and differentiated instruction should be required of Missouri teachers.

In subsequent correspondence, David Welch related an exchange with the DESE office of teacher preparation concerning how to approach this proposal. That office replied that, given the advent of the revised teacher certification requirements, which will become effective as of August, 2017, they are unwilling to consider further changes to certification requirements until that time.

Hope springs eternal, however, and there is a path forward. Dr. Wiley will be submitting a course proposal form as of December 3, 2014, for a mandatory foundations course in gifted education to be taken by all pre--service teachers at Drury University as of Spring 2015. It is hoped that by attending carefully to course structure and outcomes, this initiative may form the keystone of a persuasive argument for other teacher preparation institutions, and ultimately DESE, to recognize the needs of this population in our classrooms.

**B. Diversity Task Force (Will Perkins)** We have not had a chance yet to get together, but will have more information ready at the next board meeting.

**C. Past President Task Force (Patty Cookson)**

**I. Unfinished Business**

A. No unfinished business

**II. New Business**

- A. Sue Peters Contract—Sue is understanding of the financial aspect of our organization and we have been looking to give increments in pay. Sue will be offered a contract with a 12,000 stationary for a two years’ contracts so that we have the budget in line. Motion to extend a contact by Lenae Lazzelle to 12,000, for one year now and with an understanding that next year we will be extending a two year contract for \$12,000. Second by Sue Adams. Discussion about having a breakdown for the budget. Motion passed.
- B. Posting for Gifted Teacher on our website. Seth says that it is doable. Discussion about the benefit to our membership. It would draw more people to our website. One concern is making sure that the posting are from the Human Resources. Discussion was that we would not actually put the posting, but a link to the postings. We already have Opportunities for Educators so that Academies, etc. can .
- C. Bylaws change vs. Board Guidelines for finance fiscal year—tabled.
- D. Combination of conference fee with membership renewal for conference.—tabled.

**III. Announcements--**The next GAM Board meeting will be Saturday, February 21 in Oak Grove, MO to kick off Gifted Education week.

Robin Lady moved that we adjourned. Seth Jaeger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Pennington

**Board Members in Attendance**

Lenae Lazzelle	Sheila Bonner	Sarah Ludlow	Cindy Turner	Vicky Bennett	Debbie Green	Meredith Burstin
Robin Lady	David Welch	Brian Stuhlman	Seth Jaeger	Tad Droste	Kyna Iman	Peggy Pennington
Sue Peters	Sue Adams	Kristy Jackson	Ginger Beaird	Diana Casebolt	Stacey Davis	Jana Gentry Smith
Shannon Fuller	Heather Tomicich	Dixie Youngers	Ellen Stuhlman	Jennifer Medina	Will Perkins	