

**EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHALLENGE MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE
Minutes – October 2, 2008**

Present: Tony Byrd, Mary Freitas, Jon Howeler, Pidgie Hopper, Ken Batali, Carol Rypkema, Elizabeth Donnelly, Kevin Judd, Kristen Merrill, Nancy Gilbertson

Absent: Sue Venable, Ken Limon, Mary Phan, Michelle Toshima

<p>DISTRICT CHALLENGE MIDDLE LEVEL TASK FORCE</p>
--

<p>GOAL:</p>

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore options to meet the needs of gifted middle school students |
|--|

Review September 4 Minutes: Minutes were approved with no changes.

New Members: Welcome to Kristen Merrill and Michelle Toshima, Co-Presidents of CPA at TP K-8. It made sense to add these ladies as Mary Phan, former CPA President, has now moved up to the middle school level. Mary will continue on the task force as a middle school representative and luckily for us she has a significant amount of history and the workings of CPA, TP K-8, and the Task Force.

Recommendation to CPC: Tony, Jon, Pidgie, Ken B. presented the District Challenge Middle Level Task Force Recommendation to CPC's Education Sub-Committee on September 8. The committee was very supportive of the idea to have a gifted program at the middle school level. The task force then went before CPC's Boundary and Enrollment Sub-Committee. Tony felt that our recommendation received a good response overall.

The superintendent and his staff support the gifted program being placed at Brier Terrace Middle School due to the school having enough space, its location, and the willingness of Kevin Allen, Brier Middle Principal to support the program.

The CPC will meet to look at enrollment and reconfigure boundaries if Evergreen K-6 students move into Terrace Park K-8 and Mountlake Terrace Elementary. Transportation rough costs to send the 7th-8th grade students to BTM is reasonably comparable - \$18,000-\$20,000 to what it costs to get these students to TP K-8.

Design Options for Middle Gifted Program: If the School Board approves having a gifted 7-8 program at Brier Terrace Middle, the task force will look at:

- Designing what our gifted program might look like
- Who would teach these classes?
- What qualifications the teachers should have
- HR timeline for hiring, contractual and EEA pieces

- **Task Force Design Think Tank Ideas:**
- Honors courses
- Placement into gifted program
 - Test all 6th graders on CogAT6 or use placement guidelines already in place for students to enter Honors courses at the middle schools?
 - Fiscal costs to test all 6th graders? Test only 6th graders that turn in a referral like we did a few years ago – less cost and get students who are really interested
- Program follow BTM schedule? 6 periods?
- Electives – foreign language
- Possible other “gifted” coded students from district’s elementaries come to BTM
- Compact curriculum
- Blocks of classes – see suggestions from Lake Washington, Bellevue, Mukilteo, etc.
- Seat times meet state regulations
- Band/orchestra “0” period?
 - Some band students more advanced
 - Possibility to have more electives
- Measures to help gifted students be ready for pre-AP or pre-IB at our high schools
- Need of more expertise for committee at the AP/IB levels, possibly add to committee, have written opinions from these levels on how to successfully prepare for either AP/IB
- Learn more from other local districts rather than just web-site. We have personally communicated with current administrators of the gifted programs in Bellevue, Mukilteo, and Lake Washington to see how their programs are set up. Refer back to former minutes and attachments from August 25 to see the differences in their middle school programs. There will also be a couple of visitations at the middle level in these districts. Some task force members have already had a tour of Brier Terrace Middle School.

Upcoming District Challenge Middle Level Task Force Meetings:

- Monday, October 13, 4:30-6:30, room 201 ESC
- Monday, November 3, 4:30-6:30, room 201 ESC
- Tuesday, November 18, 4:30-6:30, TP K-8
- Monday, December 1, 4:30-6:30, room 201 ESC