

Broad Based Planning Team  
Minutes  
January 23, 2002

Attended by:

Dr. Vicki Vaughn, Challenge Program Coordinator, Edgelea El. Principal  
Chris Himself, Director, Secondary Curriculum  
Andy Hughes, Chairperson for Ch. Program Parents Group, Parent  
Denise Walker, Jeff Building Ch. Program Coordinator, Gr. 9H English teacher  
Chuck Herber, Jeff, Gr. 12 H English  
Donna Osborn, Jeff, Honors Algebra 3 & 4  
Elaine Parlon, Tecumseh Gr. 8 Challenge LA  
Melissa George, Tecumseh Gr. 8 Challenge/Gr. 7 Excel Science, Parent  
Anita Breshnighan, Parent  
Tammy Hobbs, Parent  
Nancy Krenk, Parent  
Dave Riley, Parent  
Madia and Brad Milks, Parents  
Margaret Hass, Jeff, student

Dr. Vaughn opened the meeting with introductions. Handouts were distributed. They included minutes from the October BBPT, the present agenda and identification time line for this spring. (Copies are included.) Dr. Vaughn briefly explained the spring time line for the Challenge Program which includes the testing times for Grade 1 Otis-Lennon and MAT, NWEA for grades 2-5, tentative screening dates for the Summer Challenge Art Program, middle schools Grade 6 and the elementary levels for Gr. 1 Clusters, and self-contained classrooms Grades 2-5. Mr. Jim Lilley and Mrs. Elaine Lucas, counselors from Sunnyside Middle School will visit Grade 5 classrooms at Glen Acres, Linnwood, Murdock, Vinton and Washington to meet students to explain the programs available at Sunnyside. Mrs. Mary Margaret Foreman, counselor from Tecumseh Middle School, will handle the screening for Durgan, Earhart, Edgelea, Miami, Miller, and Oakland. Denise Walker said materials for incoming freshman will go to the middle schools in early February to be returned to the high school by the end of March. This new time line should help with scheduling.

Information about the Indiana Association for Gifted (IAG) Annual Conference, February 28- March 1, was also distributed. Dr. Vaughn noted that the speakers at this conference were nationally renowned and very knowledgeable. She encouraged parents to take advantage of the Parents' Meeting, February 28, the first evening of the conference. Attendance is free of charge for the Thursday night parents' meeting.

Dr. Vaughn reported that the elementary teachers in the Challenge Program had reviewed the evaluations from 2000-2001. Evaluations are available for review at anytime in the Challenge office. Discussion continued about:

- frequency of evaluations
- possible rotation of evaluations between levels of the program
- how personnel changes effect the evaluations
- subtleties of change made by evaluations
- value of exiting seniors evaluations
- the possibility of multiple evaluation opportunities for high school students; Gr. 9/11 in LA, Gr. 10/12 in Math. This would involve more students.

Andy Hughes suggested that teachers might prepare a list of expectations to be shared with parents at the first parent conferences at the elementary and middle school levels. He also suggested that the evaluation process and what is done with the data be explained to

the parents in the next newsletter.

Evaluation forms will be available at the April meeting for review and changes for distribution to parents in early May.

Dr. Vaughn reported that the School Improvement Plans were due March 1, 2002 as required by the P.L. 221. In the Lafayette School Corporation, the Challenge Program is within the description of curriculum and is part of the corporation as a whole curriculum plan.

At the October meeting concerns were expressed about what will eventually happen with present middle school Excel students when the move to the high school. Math was a particular concern. It is evident to teachers that students identified in the Excel tier often demonstrate the need for a curriculum that moves much faster than the students in the next tier. As a result of these concerns Dr. Vaughn met with Chris Himsel. From this meeting Dr. Vaughn was able to report that many of these same issues were being discussed at the Math CAT team level. Chris Himsel also was investigating the potential for the International Baccalaureate Program and how it could relate to these same concerns. There is a meeting scheduled for January 28, 2002 for staff and administrators from Tecumseh Middle School to discuss the present Excel levels and possibilities for the fall. Many of these issues can not resolved until staffing at the secondary levels for fall have been determined.

The "Challenge Newsletter" was briefly discussed. Parents especially appreciated the testing dates, calendar information, and web site information. Anita Breshnighan expressed support for the Accelerated Reader computer program for use in the elementary environment. It is presently used at the middle school level. Dr. Vaughn did mention the expense involved to support this program and this program is not designated as a program specifically for gifted children. Scanners and printers would be needed in each classroom. Funds raised through the Challenge Parents' Group might be a source for the needed funds.

Denise Walker is concerned about new move-ins to the high school that are placed by counselors in Honors/AP classes without proper screening information. Language Arts placements is more difficult at this time. Math/Science placement is also a concern because curriculums from other schools do not always mesh or sequence the same.

Possible solutions might include:

- placement in an academic class until screening information is made available by the student or previous school
- have new students do a writing sample
- find appropriate performance assessment instruments that would suggest proper placement
- teacher conducted interviews as an informal assessment

Denise will report back to the team.

Dr. Vaughn expressed appreciation to everyone for their attendance and interest in the Challenge Program and reminded everyone that the last meeting for this academic year will be April 17, at 6:30 pm at Hiatt Administration Center.