

LSC Challenge Program
Broad Based Planning Team
Minutes: March 26, 2003

Attended by:

Dr. Vicki Vaughn, Challenge Program Coordinator, Edgelea El. Principal
Mr. Gary Christlieb, Challenge Building Coordinator, Jeff High School
Mrs. Mary Margaret Foreman, Counselor, Challenge Building Coordinator, Tecumseh
Mr. Jim Lilley, Counselor, Challenge Building Coordinator, Sunnyside
Mrs. Elaine Lucas, Counselor, Sunnyside
Mr. Andy Hughes, Chairperson for Ch. Program Parents Group, Parent
Ms. Donna Osborn, Jeff, Honors Algebra 3 & 4
Mrs. Kathy Kremer, Tecumseh, Gr.6 Challenge Language Arts
Mrs. Karen Mullen, Tecumseh, Gr.6 Challenge Science
Mrs. Valerie Montgomery, Tecumseh, Gr.6 Social Studies
Ms. Laura Fitzgerald, Tecumseh, Gr.6 Excel Science
Ms. Arianne Halle, Gr.6 Excel Math
Mrs. Nancy Krenk, Parent

Dr. Vaughn welcomed those attending and introductions were made. Minutes from the January 21, 2003, meeting were distributed. One grammatical error was corrected. Dr. Vaughn informed the Broad Based Planning Team that all teachers in the Challenge Program had been sent a request and form to produce a curriculum map for each grade levels and subject in the Challenge Program. The teachers in grades 1 Cluster, and grades 2-5 self-contained will address all subjects taught that are accelerated and / or enriched. Grades 6-12 will be subject specific. Each map will outline the taught curriculum throughout year by: topic, main text, supplemental text(s), and major projects. Hopefully, this will help update the curriculum that is taught in the Challenge classrooms. Many teachers have completed their map and returned it to the Challenge office. The maps will be compiled and reviewed this upcoming Fall.

Each Spring the Challenge Program approaches the students and parents that have participated during the past year to complete an evaluation form. Grades 2-5 are evaluated at both the students' levels and parental level. This year at the middle school, grade 8 will participate in the evolution process, both student and parental. At grades 10 and 12 only the students participate. Students and parents in grades 2-10 participate anonymously. Grade 12 students may supply personal information. At this time the evaluation is approached as an exit interview. These evaluations are compiled and available to the parents or interested persons upon request. Valuable information is gleaned through this process in the on going attempt to improve the Challenge Program. It was suggested that the evaluation be done at the end of grade 9 rather than grade 10. This may be attempted in the Spring of 2004.

Mr. Gary Christlieb gave a brief outline of the Orientation Meeting that was held, January 28, for parents of participating high school students and incoming freshman wishing to participate in the Challenge Program at Jeff. The evening was very informative as to the changes made in the identification process for students and the new options that would be available in the very near future for Jeff students ie AP World History for incoming freshman, AP US Government, AP Economics and AP Psychology for upper class students. Several parents attending the orientation wrote letters expressing their satisfaction with the evening. These parents felt they had a better grasp as to what would be expected from their student and more informed as parents. Hopefully, this type of evening can be held again next year. Grade 8 students that are presently taking Algebra I really need to have a solid foundation in this subject before going on to Algebra II at Jeff. If students do not have

a foundation that is sufficient to support Algebra II, they should be encouraged to repeat Algebra I as a grade 9 student.

Dr. Vaughn distributed the present Challenge Program's Appeal and Exit Procedures, revised in January 2000. The present procedure is done on a case by case approach. There is not a rigid "below C" exit in place. In the past this approach for exiting the Challenge Program has been adopted to allow for students that may have extenuating circumstances. Teachers and counselors present expressed the need to better articulate expectations for participating students so that everyone is informed. A letter to incoming students and parents informing them of the expectations for the upcoming year will be sent to students new to the program, grade 6 students and students new to LSC and the Challenge Program at grades 7 and 8. Kathy Kremer volunteered to work on a draft for such a letter. Both student and parent will be asked to sign the letter and return it.

"Recommending with reservation" should be an option for teachers recommending students to the next level. These students will be followed and counseled as needed. Checking achievement to insure proper placement was made. Concern was expressed about Algebra I students that achieve below a "B" level to continue into Algebra II. It was suggested that if this occur that these few students be doubled tracked in the Sophomore year with both Algebra I and Geometry. This would put them back on track for a Junior year in Math taking Algebra II. It was agreed to stay with the present Appeal and Exit procedures but to take a more pro-active approach at the time of placement. This policy will be addressed again in the Spring of 2004. Mrs. Tammy Hobbs wanted assurance that students would not be dropped from the Challenge Program at the secondary level without parental knowledge.

Dr. Vaughn shared information about the IAG conference, Dr. Sally Reis's presentation, "Why Gifted Programs Work." Information about the upcoming NAGC, National Association of Gifted Children, conference that will be held in November in Indianapolis. Dr. Vaughn is chairing the the Art Committee and hopes to encourage our many talented fine artists to participate in the display at the Convention Center on Saturday, November 15, 2003. More information about volunteer opportunities will be available in the fall. Dr. Vaughn encourages all present to take advantage of having this event so close to Lafayette.

Expansion of AP course work at the high school level will be address at the fall meeting.

Dr. Vaughn expressed her appreciation to all present for their interest in the Lafayette School Corporation Challenge Program and their willingness to share time to make the program work for our students today.

The meeting was adjourned.