

## Governance Minutes 12/13/07

### 1. Valerie Upham moves to review notes from 10-11-2007 meeting.

- Add Jennean Danielson to the attendee list.
- Approved with addition of Danielson to attendee list.

### 2. Open Positions and Election Ballots

- Nominations will be ready by 12/14/07.
- Ballots will be ready by 12/18/07.
- Separate ballots will be prepared for staff and parents.
- Ballots will be sent out on Tuesday, 12/18 and returned by Friday, 12/21.

### 3. Methods used to place students in GATE/advanced classes for other English classes

- **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NOTES FROM PRESENTATION**
- Presented by parents Jill Molyneaux, Sonia Gomez-Neri, Maria Gomez (parents)
- Michelle Lali (sp?) and Nancy Blumenthal (sp?) also present and observing on behalf of parents
- Parents noted that while they do not have an issue with staff/teaching members, they have an issue with placement methods
- Carol Barry and Helen Tocco referred parents to the Governance Committee as decision making body regarding placement
- Molyneaux, speaking on behalf of other parents, finds it unfair and outdated that the Raven test is used as the sole criteria for placement
- Gomez, educator for 40 years, noted grandson was denied opportunities to participate in GATE classes because he does not meet current criteria
- Gomez feels the tracking system in place at Standley denies deserving students opportunities for rigorous curriculum, especially Hispanic and African-American students
- Gomez noted specific 6<sup>th</sup> grade data on the achievement gap between Hispanic/African-American students and White/Asian students at Standley as proof that minority students are being underserved
- Gomez is concerned that this will put her grandson and other students not in GATE at a significant disadvantage when he enters high school/college
- Gomez-Neri, educator in SD Unified for 10 years (4 at Spreckels), reiterated the inherent inequity of our English placement system (solely based upon the Raven) vs. math (4 different criteria)
- Gomez-Neri reiterates that our placement system puts students at a significant disadvantage entering high school
- Parents request three actions: 1) In the interim, take the rigorous instructional strategies being used in GATE/Seminar and apply them to all classes, and 2) revise the GATE model for the 2008-09 school year, specifically to incorporate other criteria for inclusion into English classes
- 3) Restructure classes so that every class will include a diverse population of learners yet will remain rigorous and challenging.

**Several parents voiced personal anecdotes about difficulty getting placed in the GATE classes, or discussed the difference they have noticed in the GATE/Regular situation.**

**Juergens** – discussed how there is extensive planning within the 7<sup>th</sup> grade English department to make sure that everyone from ELD to Seminar is getting the same instruction.

**McCrory** – asked three questions: What are the other GATE models that are available? Can the Governance team make the decision to make the change, or is it strictly an advisory role?

**Higa** - Discussed the four different GATE models available through the district, the significant number of GATE and Seminar students (approximately 40%) at Standley, and the logistics of making this happen. Recommended task force to analyze current status and look at the process necessary to make the change. The priority should be informing all members of the community impacted of the potential change and accept feedback. Higa suggested a mix on the task force of parents, staff and GATE resource teachers.

**Roberts** makes motion to form committee to evaluate GATE plan.

**Skillin** seconds motion.

**Danielson** comments on the only differentiation between her curriculum and Gonzalez (Seminar) is extended time for completion of assignments.

**Molyneaux** asked for reassurance that the timeframe be expedited

4. **Upham** will send out information on January parent classes via email.