

SPAN (Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network)

Meeting Minutes October 25, 2011

A. Introduction of Executive Board:

Co-President: Lisa Garborg
Co-President: Apryl Henry
Vice President: Julie Mueller
Treasurer: Anne Fry

B. Treasurer's Report:

After expenses for a reception for Kari Klima and funding for MEGT memberships for the teachers at the middle school and high school with time devoted to Synergy students, the Prior Lake-Savage Chapter of MCGT (SPAN) has a balance of \$1309.46.

C. Introduction of Synergy Specialists in attendance:

High School: Jared Daggit has 1 class period each day devoted to working with Synergy students. He is currently getting to know these students and plans to focus on their social/emotional needs.

Middle School: Angie Toeller is the Synergy Specialist for both middle schools and plans to provide various pull-out activities for Synergy students during Primetime; students currently have the opportunity to participate in the Stock Market game. She will be moving toward focusing more of her time on working with teachers of advanced classes with resources for their classes.

Elementary School: Pam Winfield (principal at WW, elementary head of Synergy and SAGE) and Michele Tindal (5th-grade SAGE teacher and former Synergy specialist at all levels) were in attendance.

D. Overview of MN Council of Gifted and Talented (MCGT... <http://mcgt.net/>):

- *purpose
- *membership
- *newsletter
- *Yahoo group (see last page of these minutes for listserv topics over the last few weeks)
- *conference (Nov. 1 is deadline for registration)

E. Other resources:

- * <http://www.nagc.org/> (National Assoc. of Gifted Children)
- * <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org> (Gifted 101, all things gifted)
- * <http://www.sengifted.org/> (social and emotional needs of gifted)
- * <http://www.davidsongifted.org/> (resources for gifted)
- * <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/> (center of talent development; on-line courses)
- * <http://greatpotentialpress.wordpress.com/> (books about gifted)
- * <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/> (talent testing; Explore, ACT, SAT)
- * <http://cty.jhu.edu/> (Center for Talented Youth...Johns Hopkins U)

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Thanks to Michelle Gillette-Lacko for providing these additional resources:

- * www.mathcep.umn.edu/umt ymp (U of MN Talented Youth Mathematics Program)
- * <http://epgy.stanford.edu/> (Stanford's [on-line]Education Program for Gifted Youth)
- * www.ecsu.k12.mn.us (Metro Educational cooperative Service Unit)
- * www.ecae.net (Edina Center for Academic Excellence)

Thanks for Pam Winfield for suggesting:

- * <http://www.freespirit.com/> (publisher of resources for gifted kids)

F. Tentative plan for SPAN meetings:

Tuesday October 25	Welcome/intro/plan for year
Tuesday November 29	Middle school advanced programming (middle school principals & Synergy specialist scheduled to come)
Tuesday January 31	State of gifted education in our district (Superintendent Sue Ann Gruver & Curriculum Director Jeff Holmberg scheduled to come)
Thursday Feb 23	Gifted education at the high school (high school principal & Synergy specialist scheduled to come)
Tu March 13	CHAT night...College Planning for Gifted Kids
Tuesday April 24	??Summer activities for gifted kids??

All meetings except for the CHAT night are scheduled from 7-8:30 in the WW Media Center. CHAT night will take place in the lecture hall at the high school.

G. Interest in SPAN-sponsored social events

Those present expressed interest in sponsoring social events for gifted kids and their parents. Rachel Lord and Trudy Lynch agreed to lead the coordination of future events.

H. Other concerns/topics for meetings

- *Executive functioning/organization
- *Study skills for the child that doesn't need to study
- *progression of gifted education in our district from 3rd-grade Synergy/SAGE through high school

*****Next meeting on Tuesday November 29th. This is an important meeting for anyone with gifted children at the elementary as well as middle school levels, as we will have opportunities to hear from the middle school principals about what is being done to meet the needs of gifted learners at the middle level as well as offer feedback to them about our perspectives on how our kids' needs are being met (current middle school kids) and what we see as essential for meeting our kids' needs in the future (current middle school and elementary SAGE/Synergy kids).**

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MCGT email post topics over the last few weeks:

- *thumbsucking in kindergarten (from boredom?)
- *resources for school board election information (including suggestions for questions to ask school board candidates about their beliefs about gifted education)
- *link to a NY Times article related to bullying
- *resources for a high school (gifted) freshman with ADHD who is having trouble with writing
- *request for recommendations for clinics/doctors who evaluate for dyslexia
- *request for recommendations about how to advocate for higher-level math for a first-grader
- *request for ideas for alternatives to a high school algebra 2 class that is moving much too slowly
- *request for opinions about which test...Explore, ACT, or SAT...would be best for a younger child to take
- *information about AMC-8 (math competition) testing
- *request for information about experiences with Math Masters (math competition)
- *information about Math and Science Family Fun Fair:
http://blog.lib.umn.edu/itcomm/events/2011/11/math_and_science_family_fun_fa.php