

NAPAGE

northalleghenypage@gmail.com
www.giftedtigers.org

An Affiliate Member of **PAGE**
(PA Assoc for Gifted Education)
www.giftedpage.org

NAPAGE

October 15, 2018

6:30 p.m. - Baierl Center

MEETING MINUTES

Next NAPAGE Meeting

Monday, November 19th from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Ponce Room in the Baierl Center

Upcoming Gifted Advisory Committee (GAC) Meetings

November 13

All meetings are held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Central Administration Office

Upcoming Events

- Superintendent's Coffee October 23, 2018 9:30 a.m. Carson Middle School
- Superintendent's Coffee December 11,, 2018 9:30 a.m. Hosack Elementary School
- [Upcoming School Board Meetings](#) - 7 p.m. at Central Office
 - November 14, 2018 – Regular Meeting
 - December 5, 2018 – Reorganization Meeting
 - December 12, 2018 – (Combined Meeting) - Work Session/Regular Meeting
 - To register to speak, please call the Board Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at 412-369-5437. It will be necessary to give a topic and you must be a resident of the District. When called upon to speak, the individual will be asked to give his/her name and home address.
- NASH Counselor Coffee (third Thursday of month at 7 a.m. in Ponce Room).
 - Thursday, November 15 - College Testing (SAT, ACT, and Test Optional)
 - Thursday, December 20 - Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Smart Borrowing
- NAI Principal's Coffee
 - November 8, 1:30 p.m.
- Gifted Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting November 13, 2018 1:00 p.m.
- PAGE Annual Conference: November 29 and 30 at Pittsburgh Marriott North (8am - 4pm). Suggestion to pick break-out sessions that are specific for your child or group. Informal networking opportunities.
<https://www.giftedpage.org/conference/2018-conference/>

Updates & Reports by Officers & Building Representatives

From the Gifted Advisory Committee meeting

- Mr. Christopher will attend the November GAC meeting and provide an update on the middle school day
- Dr. Sciuolo asked for recommendations on future GAC discussion topics
- Dr. Sciuolo is working on the screening matrix and the GOAL tracking and will provide both reports at an upcoming meeting

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- Daniel Rossi-Keen, president of PAGE, will be a presenter at an upcoming NAPAGE meeting

Consumer Concerns

- There are concerns about make up requirements for physical education when a student is out for an I/O or participating in a GIEP. Dr. Scullo will check the PA requirements for phys ed and report back.
 - There was discussion on student to teacher ratios in a GOAL classroom as well as the maximum case load for a teacher responsible for preparing GIEPs
 - Anyone with questions regarding changes to the middle school day should contact their building rep or one of the NAPAGE officers so their concerns can be shared at the November GAC meeting
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Discussion on Chapter 16

- Shely Lesham and Jen Husek provided a report on the roundtable discussion at the AIU regarding the review of Chapter 16 (the section of PA code that addresses gifted education) Notes from the roundtable are on the next page. Anyone wishing to share comments can use the email address listed below.

Chapter 16 Roundtable Discussion Notes

October 3, 2018

- The roundtable happens every 4 years, to review regulations.
- The goal is how the Commonwealth will maintain the obligations of gifted students, already identified and not yet identified.
- They are reviewing evaluation, elements of a GIEP, criteria for educational placement, due process procedures.
- State board is not proposing any changes at this point. Only fact-finding how our regulations impact gifted in the state; their opinion will be formed by those who are responsible for delivering services.
- Will accept letters with comments. They will provide what happened to PDE.
- They will provide feedback and answer questions if they can

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Below is a brief list of topics covered at the 10/3/18 Meeting.

- There is no follow thru from the state after a monitoring. How does the state plan to follow up to progress monitoring?
- Caseload is too high for gifted teachers and they can't deliver quality for their students.
- Professional Development needs to be required within the first 5 years for new teachers or teachers new to Gifted.
- Teachers and Admins are not trained to work with our gifted students. When administrators don't know requirements, they cannot enforce it.
- Identification needs to be unified across the commonwealth.
- Every district should have a policy on acceleration, including a policy on the early entrance to kindergarten.
- Needs to be consistent testing and interpretation across the state.
- Universal Screening needs to happen statewide.
- There is no oversight from the state. If a school doesn't do what they are supposed to, what are the repercussions?
- GIEPs don't address the social/emotional needs of gifted learners. GIEPs are strength based, so it doesn't help kids with social issues.
- Lack of funding causes Gifted Education to be the lowest priority for the school districts.
- Push-in vs. Pull-out Method, which is the best and what does the state recommend?
- Teachers with no gifted experience are being put into gifted positions and not given any instruction.
- Request to use the same language in Chapter 16 that NAGC uses.
- Questions about the Identification Process.
- The matrix is made by each district, so if a district doesn't want more gifted children, they can make their matrix more difficult. This needs to be the same across the state in all districts.

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- Monitoring needs to be more serious with action steps required and follow up on those action steps.
- Caseload Managers should be in place for districts that have many identified students.

District Gifted Education information can be found at:

<https://www.northallegHENY.org/Page/25870>

Chapter 16 resources

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Gifted%20Education/Gifted%20Program%20Guidelines.pdf>

Send in your thoughts, ideas, stories in relation to Chapter 16 to the following email address:

ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov

Mission Statement:

NAPAGE is a parent support/advocacy group. We are the North Allegheny chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE). PAGE is a nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to helping gifted learners, parents and educators. You can visit their website at www.giftedpage.org for more information.

NAPAGE's mission is to advocate for and support gifted children and their families in the North Allegheny School District. We accomplish this by:

- Providing parent representation to NA's Gifted Advisory Committee (GAC and SEAC)
- Sharing experiences, concerns and successes
- Proactively addressing issues that arise
- Encouraging the use of best practices in gifted education