

**Greater Dane County Advanced Learner Network**

**Friday January 29, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

8:00 – 8:30 WELCOME

* **YAHARA RIVER WRITERS MATERIALS were submitted :)**
* **Math Meet Hosts picked up trophies**
* **Haiku Entries were turned in :)**

8:30 – 9:30 **Presentation:**  **Supporting our Advanced and Unique Learners: “ “They’ll Be Okay or Will They…”**Sue Schaar (Presentation Attached to email with minutes)

* + What is an Advanced Learner
    - Typically called “gifted,” “talented,” “highly intelligent” or a “significant outlier” in one or more of 5 domains: General Intellectual, Specific Academic, Leadership, Creativity, Visual and Performing Arts (Psychomotor)
  + What does “gifted” mean?
    - Good abstract thinker
    - We typically look at math, Language Arts, science and technology
    - Depends on your culture
  + What causes it?
    - Seems to be connected to neural networks
    - Einstein’s brain in the area of visualizing and mathematical thinking had a lot of extra dendritic branching
    - Nature- you are born with a fixed “amount of intelligence due to genetics
    - Nurture - someone else wants you to have it and supports you with the opportunity for it
    - Hard Work - either you want it for yourself or someone else provides serious support/pressure(?) for you to exert high degree of effort (Growth Mindset)
  + Some Truths
    - * Children don’t make a choice at birth to be “gifted” or not.
      * Gifted may make a conscious choice sometime in their life to “look” gifted or not. First point in life where they make a choice 4K or Kindergarten. For girls at the end of elementary school and the beginning of middle school they may make the choice not to be “gifted”. Another time for girls to make the choice is high school or college.
        + Middle school is hard to navigate for gifted kids - in some cases no interest, in some cases do want to participate and in others they think it is stupid. Middle school students need to be strong and independent to avoid the challenges around them.
        + Giftedness can be a double edged sword.
      * Asynchronous Development - the primary stumbling block
        + Physical, Cognitive, Emotional and Social - look at all domains
        + Cognitive - that is where the trouble comes. For gifted they are cognitively advanced. This disparity is pronounced in the cognitive
        + Emotionally - kids can be in a very different place than they are cognitively
        + Social Development - Gifted kids may be behind in this area
        + Looking for gifted characteristics in the young -

What is their sense of time and relationships

Students that will be good at math may be good at

reading a clock to the minute and/or

can explain complex relationships in families

They may remember what a parent or teacher said - they don’t forget things. Teachers may feel threatened by some “gifted” students

They can derail lessons - other kids cannot make connections with the conversation

* + - * + High Level language development and verbal ability

many love to play with words

can be manipulative and challenging

may use sarcasm and bully others

* + - * + Advanced Comprehension

kids at a very early age can understand what is going on around them

Can read materials that are not developmentally appropriate. We need to be careful with reading selections.

* + - * + Unusual emotional depth and intensity

# Living With Intensity: Understanding the Sensitivity, Excitability, and the Emotional Development of Gifted Children, Adolescents, and Adults

Book Recommendations:

# Living With Intensity: Understanding the Sensitivity, Excitability, and the Emotional Development of Gifted Children, Adolescents, and Adults; Susan Daniels and [Michael M. Piechowski](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&text=Michael+M.+Piechowski&search-alias=books&field-author=Michael+M.+Piechowski&sort=relevancerank)

<http://www.amazon.com/Living-With-Intensity-Understanding-Excitability/dp/0910707898>

Dr Elaine Aron- The Highly Sensitive Person

<http://hsperson.com/books/the-highly-sensitive-person/>

Unless gifted kids grow up in a family where they learn to discuss feelings, they end up internalizing. If we don’t talk, they will either explode or implode.

* + - * + Gifted Kids have a tendency toward Perfectionism

When they know they are intelligent and they run into a problem they get stuck

Hate to edit papers- might be exhibiting perfectionism. Student may want someone else to edit not themselves.

Idea for teachers from Sharon Daly

Look at an author’s website where you will find author’s comments on the many revisions on books and stories they have written. Teach kids even author’s edit!

Perfectionism can result in

Addiction

Eating Disorders

Self - harm

* + - * + Other General issues:

Isolation - can kill them emotionally and socially

they need to be with other like learners

Morality and Justice Issues

Unrealistic expectations

* + - * + The Microsystems Effect- what is my effect on you and what is your effect on me?

Friends

Family

School

Work

* + - * + Parenting styles make a big difference

Authoritarian

Authoritative

Permissive

Uninvolved

* + - * + The Stigma of Giftedness Paradigm

Being labeled can be limiting

mixed messages

* + - * + Issues for younger students - If we do not require kids to use effort, when are they going to learn resiliency and how to master difficult tasks
        + Issues for adolescents

Identity formation is difficult when you are not with like peers

Career Choice

Recommended article from Sharon Daly

Expectation Overload: Helping Multipotential Students Find Happiness

https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/NAGC%20THP%202015%20Fall.pdf

Gender Issues

Culturally Linguistically Diverse adolescents

Cutting/ Self-Mutilation

Depression & Suicide

9:30 – 9:45 ***BREAK***

* 9:45 – 10:00 Constitution and Bylaws discussion/member vote- Laura Borsecnik
* Revisions focused on:
  + Separating Constitution and Bylaws into two documents
  + Editing language to reflect current language
  + Changed board length and positions
* Sharon Daly made a motion to pass Constitution and Bylaws; Kitty VerKuilen second;
* Updated Constitution and Bylaws will go into effect during the 2016-17 school year.

10:00 – 10:15 Discussion of Yahara River Writers Inclusionary Practices

* Neustro Mundo, a dual language Immersion School in Madison brought forward a concern that a student was not allowed to submit a story written in Spanish.
* How can we be most inclusive as possible? Thoughts from the group
  + If we look at the purpose of an anthology should it contain with work that people cannot read?
  + Could we accept the submission and a translation?
  + If so, the school district should provide a translation?
  + What might be reasons that submissions should be judged in their native language:
    - when the native language it translated to English it loses some of its power
    - 50% of Madison’s demographics have changed - in order to meet the needs of under -represented populations.
  + Would it be possible to produce an anthology with student writing in other languages?
  + If we open the door to Spanish, we need to open the door to all languages?
  + Can we afford two publications?
  + Do all judges and editors have the capacity to read and judge in multiple languages?
  + Could we partner with another Dane County organization to expand to offer a multi-lingual anthology?
  + Please share follow up ideas and thoughts to President Laura Borsecnik [Laura.Borsecnik@stoughton.k12.wi.us](mailto:Laura.Borsecnik@stoughton.k12.wi.us)
  + We will continue the discussion at an upcoming meeting

10:15: Updates

* UW Whitewater- Pam Clinkenbeard
  + You may still be able to register for this semester's “coordinator course” with no late fee – if you have already completed the three prerequisite core gifted classes (Foundations, Curriculum, and Psych Issues) and are interested, please contact me ASAP. The first face-to-face class is this Saturday 1/30 at UW-Whitewater (flyer attached).
  + As you may know, the Illinois gifted conference is coming up Feb. 7-9 in Naperville. This is a good chance to see several national-level speakers at regional conference prices! I often run into southern Wisconsin coordinators there. See [http://www.iagcgifted.org](http://www.iagcgifted.org/)/
* WCATY - <http://wcaty.org/>
* No Update
* Upcoming program information can be found <http://wcaty.org/>

10:15 – 11:00 Pam Clinkenbeard, Kathleen Enstad, Mary Kennedy, Amy Miller

* **When Executive Skills are lagging: Encouraging Achievement** **-** Moved to May 18th Meeting due to late start with Yahara submissions



11:10 – 11:30 **BUSINESS MEETING**

* **Call to Order**
  + President Laura Borsecnik 11:04 am
* **Minutes** – Amy Miller Motion to approve minutes Kitty Verkuilen; 2nd Mary Kennedy;
* **Treasurer’s Report** – Kristy Champion
  + Almost all districts have paid registration dues and College Matters fees. :)
  + We have paid Squarespace and Godaddy for website and domain names for the 2015-16 school year.
  + For March or May agenda: Discussion on the benefits of moving to a Google Site or ??
  + Math meet - all awards are paid for and districts have received checks for snacks, etc.
  + Checking account balance is currently $13, 659.57 ; Savings account balance $6,098.56
  + Motion to approve Lucia Rowley; second Amy Good

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

* **GDC Professional Development** – Lucia Rowley
  + March Meeting - Lori Fellenz sharing information on a Kennedy Grant for the Arts which was awarded to the Madison Metropolitan School District
  + May Meeting - Executive Functioning Presentation - When Executive Functioning is lacking: Encouraging Achievement. Pam Clinkenbeard, Kathy Enstad, Mary Kennedy and Amy Miller
  + a request was made for PD for teachers - Richard Cash possibly in summer to minimize sub needs for classroom teachers working with gifted kids

**FUNCTION GROUPS**

* **Sunshine** – Sharon Daly
  + Please email Sharon with any updates and she will mail cards from the group. [sdaly@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:sdaly@cambridge.k12.wi.us)
* **Other Professional Development/Parent Education planning** – Amy Miller
  + A group will be presenting at the Wisconsin School Counselor’s Association in February focusing on Executive Functioning supports.
  + Parent University- Will be held at American Family Insurance in Sun Prairie on Wednesday April 4th, 2016 5:30 Registration 6-8pm Sessions
    - Registration and flyers coming soon!
    - Parent University subcommittee- Kitty VerKuilen, Kathy Enstad and Amy Miller. Please email Amy Miller if you would like to join the committee. [alm@oregonsd.net](mailto:alm@oregonsd.net)
    - Possible sectional topics recommended from the group
      * Joy - Sharon Daly
      * Increase in anxiety and depression - Sue
      * Love and Logic/ SENG
      * Growth Mindset
      * WCATY
      * Executive Function
  + Request to districts to donate an item(s) for giveaways
  + Suggestion was made to put out baskets to offset costs
  + Suggestion was made to contact WATG to have books available to purchase during the event

**STUDENT PROGRAM GROUPS**

* **Yahara River Writers**- Ruth Frawley
  + Thank you to all for making Yahara a success! Thank you to Ruth Frawley and the Yahara Committee for fantastic coordination of this year’s Contest!
  + Speaker for Yahara will be Dean Robbins - <http://deanrobbins.net/> Author and former editor for the Isthmus
* **Math 24** - Kristy Champion
  + North Tournament Tuesday March 1st at Union South
  + South Tournament Tuesday March 8th at Union South
* <http://www.gdcaln.org/math-24/>
  + Kristy Champion will see if a list can be put together for ideas for kids to do on campus for the half of the day they are not competing
  + 4th and 5th students compete in the morning, 6th, 7th and 8th compete in the afternoon.
  + The database to be used by Math 24 is on the webpage. You can use it for practice in your district! <http://www.gdcaln.org/s/Math-24-Database1.accdb>
  + **February 11th is the student registration deadline for North**
  + **February 18th is the student registration deadline for South**
  + **You must bring one proctor per each team ( 3 kids)**
* **Haiku**- Carole Mason
  + Submissions were turned in at our January meeting. Thank you to Carole Mason for coordinating event.
* **Math Meet-** Laura Borsecnik
  + 7th and 8th Mega Meet will be Tuesday May 24th at Madison College 9am-noon Registration at 8:30am
* **Fine Arts Weekend-** Mary Kennedy
  + Calendar for APT is released March 1st
  + If you know your district’s date for Homecoming 2016, please email date to Mary Kennedy [mkennedy@poynette.k12.wi.us](mailto:mkennedy@poynette.k12.wi.us)
  + Registrations will be due by the end of April
* **College Matters-** Sharon Daly
  + November 15th, 2016 at the Pyle Center
  + Registration window will open in early October

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **2015-16 GDC ALN meetings:** 
  + **Thursday March 10**
  + **Wednesday May 18**

Motion to Adjourn: Sharon Daly; Second Mary Kennedy

Meeting adjourned: 11:35am

Minutes Respectfully Submitted: Amy Miller