

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Instruction Division

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**GATE ADVISORY MEETING**

January 16, 2008

6:00 – 6:30 PM

Room 107 District Education Center

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MINUTES

*In Attendance: Berta Campos-Anicetti, Ivy Morrith, Lisa Nyquist, Sam Murdoch, Carrie Cassee, Ashley Grimm, Elizabeth Meyers, Jan Hoffmann, Elizabeth Dunlavy, Kit Gabbard, Don Tran, Maria Gonzalez, Sue Hunt, Maija Schaefer, Anne Sturm, Kate McDougall, Kathy Marshall, Iish Ryaru*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Kate McDougall opened the meeting. Introductions took place. Minutes from November 14, 2007 were approved.

**By-Laws**

- By-Laws were reviewed and approved for the 2008-2009 school year.

**Program Review**

Kate discussed the Program Review Focus.

- Each year we select an area of focus for program review. This year we have two areas:
  - Administrative focus will be to explore the possibility of testing all third grade students.
    - Work out logistics
    - Rationale: Seek and serve students whose parents have not considered testing their children.
  - Instructional focus will be meeting the needs of under-achieving gifted students.
    - Teachers met all day on January 15
      - Behavior Specialist, Kathie Merrill, was our guest presenter in the morning.
      - The afternoon session was devoted to developing strategies for implementation.

## **Surveys**

A component of the review is to administer a parent survey. A student survey was also discussed. Kate asked for volunteers to participate on a sub committee to work on a Parent Survey. The subcommittee will be: Jan Hoffmann, Elizabeth Dunlavy, Carrie Cassee.

### **Items to possibly include on the survey:**

- Talking to your child
- Question to have bubble or verbal response
- Empowering students to make change
- What would you like to tell us?

### **Input from the Advisory included topics such as:**

- Social/emotional needs
- Meeting all needs
- Homework
- Stress and being “overwhelmed”
- Tracking homework for a month
- Noise
- World news
- Being over-scheduled

## **Governor’s Budget**

- Kathy provided information regarding the Governor’s Budget and the impact on the state of education in Novato. She explained that, although there are mid-year cuts, the Novato Board of Trustees allocated funds in November to be placed in reserve in anticipation of mid-year cuts. This discussion on the part of the Board means there will not be any mid-year lay-offs of teachers and staff. However to ensure fiscal solvency, the District will strive to conserve as many resources as possible this Spring in preparation for the 2008-2009 school year. Currently the State Categoricals, including GATE funds, is a line item for reductions for the 2008-2009 school year. The Advisory Committee will be kept informed of budget challenges for the GATE program as more information becomes available.

At 6:30 the Advisory moved to the Board Room to attend a presentation on Professional Learning Communities with keynote speakers, middle school principals: Kit Gabbard, Sinaloa, Louise Koenig, Hill, and Dale Ravazzini, San Jose.

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Next Meeting: March 19, 2008 **CANCELLED**

**Please attend Community Budget Forum -** Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm  
Novato High School

