

**AGATE Advocate
Report to AGATE Board
Meeting of 5/18/18
March/April**

My intention with these reports is to provide the Board with a concise but comprehensive summary of the legislative advocacy work of the previous month. I purposefully tried to record a lot more detail in this report to give new (and veteran) Board members a more accurate accounting of the work. There are few days that I do not spend some time working on AGATE issues and strategies. Future reports will not document all the articles read like this one unless the Board wants that much detail. I also want Board members to know that not all conversations and emails are documented here, although this is a good example of the kind of work done by your committee and me at this time of the year. Please don't ever hesitate to call me for clarification on any items of this or any other report.

MARCH

Feb 28, March 1,2 - State Conference – reported at Legislative Committee meeting, AGATE Board meeting, presented concurrent session on advocacy to approximately 35-40 attendees. Did Legislative Update at Luncheon. Talked to several parents from the area about advocacy and numerous teachers and coordinators over the course of the conference.

March 5 – Read over the agenda of the upcoming State Board meeting to check for GT waivers or any GT related agenda items.

March 6 – At the request of Aaron Randolph, I met with the Cabot GT parents' group to speak about advocacy and assist them in the initial steps of forming an AGATE Affiliate for Cabot. Presented legislative history of AGATE and provided some guidelines for advocacy.

March 11 – Two-hour session re-writing/editing script for video on advocacy for website.

March 13 – Read email of Commissioner's Memos for GT related information.

March 14 – Read NAGC Newsource publication articles and ASCD Smartbrief on College Admissions and testing.

March 15 – Read two articles related to Governor's plans to reorganize state government and called a lobbyist friend to see if he knew which boards and committees might be on the list. (Checking on Governor's Advisory Council status)

March 16 – Talked to Representative Greg Leding and Senator Blake Johnson about AEGIS funding. Clarified that Senator Johnson has discussed it with Commissioner Key and secured his support for future appropriation legislation. Also, read Richard Abernathy's "Week in Review" for any news that needed to be forwarded to the committee and/or Board. Got an email from Aaron about the preceding article about state reorganization and responded. Also emailed with Sandra about the same topic. Researching which boards and commissions report directly to the Governor. (Governor's Advisory Council)

March 20 – Three hours of work on transcription of conversation with Gloria Cabe and Elaine Dumas about early GT statutory history.

March 21 – Read article in NAGC Newsource on The Practices Framework for GT.

March 24 – Talked to Representative Greg Leding about Governor's School issues and AEGIS Funding.

March 26 – Attended Education Caucus meeting which was focused on a process for enhancing reading skills. Between this meeting and the Joint Education Meeting I met with Senator Elliott, Senator Chesterfield, Senator Clark, Senator Blake and Representative Cozart, as well as the reading program presenters. I then attended the Joint Education Committee meeting, which was focused on several different state funding sources as well as the adequacy matrix. After the JEC meeting, I met with Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner of ADE, to work on our presentation on School Improvement for the Education Caucus next month.

March 27 – Read Commissioner's memos for GT related information and reviewed handouts from the previous day's Joint Education Committee meeting from Mark Hudson.

March 28 – Read NAGC Newsource – "How and Why to Search for Young Einsteins" and ASCD Smartbrief: "How Does Praise Affect the Growth Mindset?" Also, received email forward of Commissioner's Memo about RFP's for AEGIS programs from Dustin as well as his Google Docs invitation to the spreadsheets for the candidates' personal information. He and Aaron had entered a number of email addresses already and for the next few days we added emails to the data sheet.

March 29 – Read Commissioner’s Memos for GT related information and ASCD Infographic: “104 Creativity and Imagination Stimulating Questions.” Emails from Aaron to the committee about his discussion about GT and ESSA with Mike Hernandez and resulting emails from several members of the committee about the inclusion of GT as a sub-population for accountability. Worked on Monthly Advocacy Report.

March 30 – Read AAEA email on “Week in Review” from Mike Mertens to see if any of the information needed to be forwarded on to the committee. Also read through Commissioner’s Memos email for the same reason. Also read more Commissioner’s Memos. Emails and conversations with Justin and Aaron about the survey that Aaron created and we reviewed. Also, emails, texts and conversations with Sandra and Karm about the process, reviewing the survey, modifying the email that would include the link to the survey. Continued to work on Monthly Report.

APRIL

April 2 – Completed monthly report and emailed to committee. Read Commissioner’s Memos. Sent newsletter article to Megan.

April 3 - Email from Aaron with invitation to edit the Survey cover letter in Google Docs. He also emailed the final edit of the survey later. Also, I had an extended and productive conversation with Sandra, who was getting clarification about the monthly report, both content and format. We also emailed back and forth afterward. Also working conversations and texts with Aaron and Dustin on the final preparations for sending the emails to candidates. Email exchanges with Barbara about the survey and email.

April 4 – Email exchanges with Sandra, Dustin and Aaron about Sandra’s visit with Deb Coffman about the GT/ESSA accountability issue. Aaron forwarded a response to his questions from Dr. Hernandez that GT would definitely be a sub-population for reporting student achievement in the state.

April 5 – Emails and conversations with Dustin, Aaron, Karm and Sandra finalizing email cover letter and survey prior to distribution. Shook hands with the Governor at Camden High School and thanked him for his support of AEGIS and that he was the Governor who brought back AEGIS programs. He said, “We are proud of that!”

April 6 – Email first round of candidate survey letters (109.) Emailing with committee members and Bill Shelley to get identification and link for the survey on the AGATE Website. Texts and conversations with Aaron and Dustin about the process. Follow up on bounced emails with alternate email addresses for four candidates. (Earlier in the day I received the “Friend of the Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education” Award at UALR. (Thanks, Dr. Ann and Dr. Deitz!)

April 7 – Email exchange with Sandra about my evaluation. She sent it out to the Committee and wants me to self-evaluate. Good discussion about the process with tentative plans for review of the results with the committee at the retreat.

April 9 – Attended ADE presentation on ESSA Accountability by Dr. Hernandez at the South Central Education Services Cooperative in Camden and talked to him about GT as a sub-population. Thanked him for responding to Aaron and for being supportive of GT. Read Commissioner’s Memos.

April 10 – Read ASCD Smartbrief on NAEP data and trends in literacy and math.

April 11 – Email from Kimberly Friedman about release of School Report grades. Followed up by going to the ADE website to review the results and figure out the reports.

April 12 – Called Lynn Bullard (AAIMS) to ask for most current data on AP in Arkansas and discussed a variety of topics in AP and GT. She sent data from 2014 and we discussed the need for more recent information on status of AP in Arkansas.

April 13 – Read Mike Merten’s AAEA Week in Review. Read Commissioner’s Memos.

April 14 & 15 – Email exchanges with Lynn Bullard as well as phone conversation about the data she had sent me.

April 16 – Read Commissioner’s Memos. Facilitated Pre-AP/AP parent meeting at Camden High School.

April 17 – Read ASCD Smartbrief – “What Evidence-based Means Under ESSA” and “How Schools Make Self-Pacing Work.” Also read Bloomboard Brief about GT Microcredentials and Arkansas Times article “Hutchinson: GIF Money is History.”

April 18 – Read NAGC Newsource article – “Educators Look for Reasons Behind NAEP Results.” Email from Aaron Randolph about Missouri GT Conference and how to submit proposals. Read Commissioner’s Memos. Dustin got access to different email addresses for many of the candidates, so we decided I would send out another round of survey emails to try to reach some of the candidates who had not yet responded. Ten of the addresses bounced and I

double checked them to see if there were errors in transcription. Discussion with Dustin and Aaron about sending another round of emails with extended dates later and decided to wait about sending any more until the 26th and extend the deadline.

April 19 – Aaron created an excel document that will track responses and shared it with me and I forwarded it to Dustin. Email exchanges between us about the responses and interesting points.

April 23 – Co-presented School Improvement session with Deb Coffman for the Education Caucus. Met with Senator Clark, Senator Chesterfield and Senator Elliott after the presentation and received positive feedback about it. Attended the Joint Education Committee meeting afterward which was a report by lawyers about the potential for modifying the Adequacy Report and matrix to create instability and possible lawsuits like Lakeview. Read ASCD Smartbrief: "How Executive Function Affects Academics."

April 24 – Attended the Joint Education Committee meeting where the focus was the adequacy report and matrix. I sat with Diane Zook, ex State Board member and our ally against GT Waivers and we talked about waivers for charter schools and the need for more accountability for providing GT services. Reviewed the handouts from Mark Hudson from the two meetings and sent the adequacy materials to Sandra for her review. After communicating with Dustin and Aaron, I utilized new email addresses Dustin had located and after changing the due date, re-sent emails to 154 candidates from whom we had not received responses.

April 26 – Read Commissioner's Memos.

April 27 – Checked on responses from last emailing of surveys. Worked on Advocate Monthly Report.

April 30 - Read Commissioner's Memos. Attended Leadership Quest training in Little Rock where I had the opportunity to talk with several lead principals about their AP and GT programs.