

**CHAT Meeting Minutes**  
**April 10, 2018**

**Open forum discussion on Preparation for Next School Year:**

- General discussion about how the Gifted Education office has become more removed from parents; gifted education is being pushed to the schools, but teachers have very little to no training in gifted education, and they can't be specialists in everything
- There are two different mentoring programs that can help (both utilize honors students at MSU, but are different programs):
  - o CAP mentor (thru Thrive) can be super helpful for gifted children – specific purpose to engage him in higher level projects (like engineering things)
  - o Enrichment mentor thru Gifted Education office
- If you have a child entering middle school:
  - o Last spring, CJ and SMS held a meeting with parents and the incoming gifted 6<sup>th</sup> graders, the middle school principals / vice principals, independent study teachers, and older gifted students – was helpful and gave her incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade hope & excitement for the next year. Unclear if this is something that happens every year or not
  - o Everyone should be aware there are teams in middle school – one parent's gifted child was placed on a team with no other gifted kids, but his independent study group was all gifted. He could have switched teams, but they didn't know in the beginning that that was the case – so for next year, everyone should make sure the child gets put in a team with other gifted kids. Either request it upfront, or consider having the student moved if they are solo.
  - o Having a different teacher for every subject is a positive thing – they are able to teach differently to each child, much better than elementary school
  - o If you have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade gifted child, recommend meeting with the Principal & Counselor at the Middle School before Spring Break so your child is on their radar screen, and they know any issues, so they can be thoughtful during placement (which occurs during Spring Break)
  - o Also recommend meeting with the child's teacher team in the Fall, again, so everyone is on the same page about your child & the issues / opportunities / needs
- If you have a child in elementary school:
  - o You can meet with their current teacher & principal about placement for next year – what works well teacher-wise, what he/she needs, request that they are with other gifted kids, but do not request a specific teacher
  - o You can request / go through the MTSS process in the Spring if there are problems and/or the child is a candidate for single subject acceleration (last year, math testing occurred in May)
  - o If you have a child who is gifted and under-achieving / no longer putting in any effort at school:
    - Go thru MTSS process – be aware that “gifted education” in BSD7 is more effective for high performing, gifted kids – not gifted, under-performing
    - Highly recommend that you (as the parent) track the action items coming out of the MTSS meeting & follow-up; drive it yourself – if you don't need to, you can back-off, but

you should assume that no one else is going to do this. The parent needs to own it b/c it is haphazard whether or not anyone else is tracking it

- Know the MTSS plan does not necessarily carry forward – it may be documented in the system, but the next year’s teacher may or may not review it. Again, another reason for the parent to initiate a meeting at the start of the school year with the new teacher

### **CHAT Leadership Team Elections for 2018-2019:**

- Some topics that we may want to tackle / consider in the coming year:
  - Legislative Developments:
    - Study results from HB1 should be available before the next legislative session (January)
    - Something likely to be written for increased funding
    - AGATE has hired their own lobbyist, in part to help a legislative representative draft a bill
  - Discuss with district whether the MTSS procedure is being implemented in all district schools for gifted kids
  - Continue to raise awareness of CHAT with parents of gifted kids at each school / with principals
  - Consider looking for grant funding that the district / Bozeman Schools Foundation could apply for – although it may be difficult with a population of 425 gifted kids (small?)
  - Consider whether there is any way to fund more teachers attending the AGATE conference
- The following people were elected to the Leadership Team by a unanimous vote of those in attendance:
  - Karen Filipovich (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Kristine Garburg (1<sup>st</sup> term)
  - Trevor Huffmaster (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Melissa Richey (1<sup>st</sup> term)
  - Sara Schwerin (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Suzanne Sowinska (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Wendy Welch (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Laurie White (1<sup>st</sup> term)

The new leadership team will arrange a time to meet before the end of the school year to discuss priorities and CHAT meeting content for 2018-2019.

Erin Beaudoin volunteered to help with one-off projects, and if anyone else would like to do the same, please email [chatswmt@gmail.com](mailto:chatswmt@gmail.com). We could use help with things such as benchmarking gifted education practices in the major school districts in MT, and grant research.