

What is an Advisory Board?

- A formal committee composed of parents, administrative staff, teachers and community representatives interested in promoting the educational needs of gifted children.



Why consider establishing an Advisory Board?

■ Rules recommends:

- Administrative Units are “highly encouraged to promote positive parental engagement through establishment of advisory boards”

■ State Family Engagement Initiative:

- Enable parents and guardians an active role in the education system
- Increase advocacy for gifted education through increased community awareness and knowledge



An effective Gifted Education Advisory Committee...

- Positively represents the community it serves
- Collaborates with school staff and the community
- Focuses attention on gifted education issues, not individual concerns or complaints
- Utilizes new information , current research and best practices in gifted education for all decisions and recommendations



Today's Questions....

- How did you get your group started and solicit the right people to make it successful?
- What is your role?
- How do you ensure the group maintains a positive focus working in collaboration with the district?
- Logistics – Are there bylaws, how often do they meet, who attends, what are their main projects/actions...how do you monitor overambitious agenda and timeline?
- How do you share input from the group with other stakeholders?
- How has your group enhanced or strengthened gifted education in your district?
- Through the lens of the parent or advocate, what are some tips that have assisted in maintaining the positive influence of the group? Coaching for advocacy.



Having a purpose

Making it Official

Tips and Pitfalls to avoid

MCVSD 51

■ Purpose – Why needed?

- Created in 2002 by D51 School Board after GT program evaluation
- Include stakeholders representative of school district
- “The GT Advisory Committee shall provide advice and counsel to the Board of Education concerning ongoing and emergent needs and issues relating to the education of gifted and talented students in District 51.”
- Bylaws created by group, updated into Charter

<https://connect.d51schools.org/sites/shared/gt/Pages/advisory.aspx>

Thompson

- **Purpose: a task force of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members who work together to improve gifted education and programming for students in the district**
- **Our district: about 15,500 students**
 - 16th largest district in Colorado
 - Two largest ethnic groups are White (about 75%) and Hispanic (about 20%)
 - About 40% of our students qualify for free or reduced meals
- **GTAC meets 6 times per year**
- **In 2014-2015 GTAC has 11 members (3 parents, 3 GT teachers, 1 classroom teacher, 1 principal, 2 district GT staff, and 1 community member)**



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- <http://www.thompsonschoools.org/Page/3500>
- Use teachers to recruit new members. Parents and community members should be able to work towards a district goal that may or may not impact their child
- Try not to overtax your members or they won't want to join. Keep meetings on-task. If you have enough time between meetings, members can also complete "homework" assignments to keep meetings shorter.
- Show members that their work is making a difference. Present to the board or your district's cabinet. Post updates on the website. Talk about results of the changes in your meetings.

MCVSD 51

■ Purpose

- GTAC Charter
 - Overview
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Membership
 - Co-Chairs and Responsibilities
 - Group Norms
 - Management of Meetings and Agenda

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MCVSD 51

■ Purpose

■ GTAC Charter

- Overview
- **Goals and Objectives >**
- Membership
- Co-Chairs and Responsibilities
- Group Norms
- Management of Meetings and

Goal: Provide Recommendations and counsel to the D51 BOE concerning ongoing and emergent needs and issues relating to the education of gifted and talented students in D51.

Objectives:

- Review and make recommendations on the development and implementation of district and state policies, guidelines, rules and regulations relating to services for gifted children.
- Make recommendations and update D51 BOE on the GTAC's areas of focus and accomplishments regarding gifted education in D51, as well as the ongoing and emerging needs of D51 gifted and talented students.
- Oversee and approve any work of GTAC subcommittees.

<https://connect.d51schools.org/sites/shared/gt/Pages/advisory.aspx>

MCVSD 51

- **Purpose – How do we meet our goals and objectives?**
 - Flexible within GTAC charter Framework
 - Education and knowledge
 - School, district, state guidance
 - Data – quantitative and qualitative
 - Accomplishments
 - Parent group
 - Speakers
 - Coordinator position – TOSA & Admin.
 - GT Teachers
 - Enrichment Days
 - Parent nights
 - Programming Initiative
 - BOE policy on Gifted Ed

MCVSD 51

- **Tips from experience...**
 - Communication
 - Framework but flexible
 - Review framework
 - Packets
 - All ownership
 - Good timekeeper and facilitator
 - Area of control, focus, and purpose
 - Clarity and analysis of guidelines, rules, procedures

Tips at a Glance

- Start small...think big
- Look for holes, weaknesses, or inconsistencies in services and curricula and choose your group activities accordingly
- Be inclusive of anyone interested in gifted education
- Knowledge is power, learn as much as you can about the needs of gifted students from what the research says
- Divide tasks into smaller elements so no one is carrying too big of a load (co-presidents, co-chairs)
- Make the meetings meaningful. Steer towards fact finding and creative problem solving not personal horror storytelling or soap boxes
- Keep organizational bylaws simple and flexible
- Learn consensus building
- Celebrate successes!

Adapted from NAGC's
[Starting and Sustaining a
Parent Group to Support
Gifted Children](#)



Successful Advisory Boards...

- elect officers, including a president, vice president (president-elect), secretary, treasurer, have a role for past presidents;
- have term limits for officers and committee chairs;
- commit to a written statement of the mission, goals, and bylaws;
- adhere to parliamentary procedure during board meetings;
- have board meetings with agendas;
- include standing and ad hoc committees and committee chairs;
- have written descriptions of officer, director, and committee chair duties;
- support a leadership development committee (to continuously seek new volunteers for officer and committee chair responsibilities);
- make a special effort to help new members feel welcome;
- solicit input from members on a regular basis to be sure that the group's activities reflect the members' priorities

