

**Alpha Kappa Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Program Meeting – Gifted Education
April 1, 2019
Submitted by Connie Lewis**

Call to Order: 6:22 p.m.

Members Attending: Melissa Olson, Nancy Watson, Connie Lewis, Rhonda Work, Nancy Rosenbaum, June Townsend, Gina Daniels, Monica Hayes, Delores Hudson, Susan Vinson.

Our guests District I Co-directors, Kathy Diesner and Linda Wunderly, (sister-in-laws), were welcomed by Nancy Watson.

Program Presenter: *Gifted Education* presented by Melissa Olson.

Melissa works at DeSoto Trail, serves as the Gifted and Talented Coordinator and as a STEAM teacher. She has received many awards – Dallas-Fort Worth Teacher of the Week (2000), Teacher of the Year at Ruediger (2006-2007), DAR Regional Social Studies Teacher of the Year (2012) and DAR State Social Studies Teacher of the Year (2012)

In addition, she is a Gifted Endorsement Instructor, State Science Item Review Committee member, LCS Elementary STEAM Bowl Committee member and Science Olympiad Coordinator.

Program: Melissa began by explaining which tests were used to identify students for gifted. The Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test is used to reveal a student's IQ. If they score above 125, then the student is eligible to take the Wechsler IQ Scale.

The students qualifying are somewhere on the scale:

IQ 170-Genius, 140-High Gifted, 130-eligible to enter gifted program in Leon Count Schools.

Due to language barriers resulting in needs for non-verbal testing, some students are overlooked as LCS only has access to Spanish and English tests.

There are 6 types of gifted:

- The successful child – good at everything, self-directed, goal oriented

- The divergent gifted child – capabilities not recognized, tends to act out, often very creative
- The underground gifted child – tends to hide, non-participatory, prefers to stay in background
- The drop-out gifted child – angry, frustrated, needs not being met; counseling needed
- The double-labeled child – gifted and learning disabled, may soar in some area but have learning problems in others.
- The autonomous learner – prefers to succeed along rather than work with others, very self-directed.

Melissa reviewed myths about gifted student and truths. (Handouts were given.)

She reported that gifted teachers have begun using “Genius Hour in the Classroom” which gives the student a free, uninterrupted hour to think, be productive, and brain-storm. This process has proved to stimulate the gifts of the individual child.

She also addressed homework for gifted. Teachers need to give homework based on the needs of the child, so homework needs to be diverse, as are the needs of the children. Too much homework is a waste of time if not challenging and tailored to the child’s capabilities.

It is important to remember that these gifted kids are still kids. They may excel in intellect but their social and emotional development is usually at a different level.

All middle schools in Leon Co. provide gifted services. Montford has the most expansive program in the county. Lincoln also provides a comprehensive gifted program.

(Note: She had prepared a slide presentation but due to technical difficulties, she did a great job of “winging it”. The information was very valuable.)

Minutes: Rhonda Work moved to approve; Monica Hayes seconded; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rhonda Work reported that our balance as of April 1, 2019 was \$914.46. The new guideline from International direct that dues by are to be paid by June, 30. Also, some of the monies in the account will be used to support the anniversary celebration (handout given). June Townsend moved to approve; Connie Lewis seconded; the report was approved.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Blountstown Elementary thanking the chapter for assistance in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

60th Anniversary Update: Delores Hudson reported that the planning was going well and that the event will be held at a la Provence in Market Square.

New Business:

Gwen Graham: The membership voted to invite Gwen to become an honorary member of our chapter. The vote was over 2/3 in favor. The information will be sent to the State Officers who will consider our request and send her an invitation to accept.

Accolades: Congratulations to **Nancy Rosenbaum** for receiving a scholarship to SPACE CAMP and for being chosen to review Science articles (See newsletter for details). Congratulations to **Monica Hayes** who has a new job as the Deputy Director of Marijuana Projects for the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative at FAMU. **Gale Workman** is in Morocco and is also working with the Legislature when in town.

Announcements:

- 60th Anniversary Planning Meeting, May 2 at 4:30 p.m., Nancy Watson's home, 3794 Patch Drive.
- Joint BBCC Founder's Day Meeting, May 18th at 11:00 a.m., Elks Club, Magnolia Dr.
- Spring Convention, April 26-28, Lake Mary, FL
- District I Conference, January 25, 2020 in Marianna, Theme is "NO Stopping Us Now!"