

# GATE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

## MINUTES

In Attendance:

Cathy Baker, Parent  
Shelanee Fernando, Counselor  
Elaine Palazzo, Teacher  
Susan Pastor, Teacher  
Claudette Robinson, Parent  
Brian Tash, Administrator  
Yvonne Wolff, Parent  
Tara Zenack, Counselor

### Communication/Article

At the February Parent Advisory Board meeting, it was suggested that articles be written for parents describing what teachers are learning in GATE Certification training and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade differentiation trainings. This would give parents a better understanding of “differentiation.” Brian Tash took this idea to the Superintendent’s Cabinet. The Superintendent is working with an intern from UCLA who is specializing in communication, and this person will write an article about GATE to be placed in the District newsletter.

### What is differentiation?

Brian Tash shared with the Committee the focus of GATE Certification training and how the components combine to create quality differentiated lessons. These components include:

- Higher order thinking skills from Bloom’s Taxonomy
- Individual talents via Gardener’s model of multiple intelligences
- Metacognitive transparency via Sandra Kaplan’s model of Depth and Complexity
- Social/emotional needs of students.
- Brain research

Participants received handouts describing these components.

### 2008-09 Feedback

Feedback from the 18 teachers participating in the UCSD GATE certification program has been overwhelmingly positive, as was the feedback from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade

teachers who worked with Donna Bennett on differentiation. Teachers will continue to receive support as they implement that which they learned during the training.

### 2009-10

In planning for the 2009-10 school year, teachers are again being offered the opportunity to obtain GATE certification from UCSD (contingent on funding received from the State). It is not known at this time how the impact of the state budget crisis will affect GATE plans. As of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were 50 teachers, grades K-12 who had turned in registration slips to participate in the GATE certification training. We are hopeful that all of these teachers will have the opportunity.

### Parent Education

A survey for GATE parents is being developed to determine their personal educational needs. It was suggested that the survey could go out via an E Blast to GATE parents. It was also suggested that parent education nights be video-taped and/or pod cast for parents unable to attend.