Gifted and Talented Citizens Advisory Committee

The Gifted and Talented Citizens Advisory Committee met on November 12, 2026. Most of the meeting focused on last year's GT Parent Night and early planning for this year's GT Family Engagement Night.

Attendees: Martha Barwick, Carol Bruce (BOE), Molly Joyner, Donna Kasnic, Kathy Benton, Pillar Clemens, Esq., Paige Workman, Tracey Lawrence, Dr. Ify Lillian Ojiegbe, Dr. Anna Rogers, Kayla Parker (student member), and Emory Spence (student member).

Agenda

1. Share key initiatives and updates to the HCPS Gifted and Talented Program
2. Recap GT Parent Night 2025-2026
3. Big picture planning of GT Family Engagement Night 2026-2027

Program Updates

Primary Talent Development (PTD): PTD lessons are taught in primary classrooms by both classroom teachers and GT Resource teachers. They give all students practice with higher-level thinking and help teachers recognize early gifted behaviors. Last year, lessons in the 2nd grade math and science curriculum were identified that naturally lend themselves to showcasing the gifted behaviors PTD looks for. The same work is being done with the 1st grade math and science curriculum this year. Members did not have any questions or comments.

Legends of Learning: Analogies Program: Funded through a three-year MSDE grant, this program uses hands-on lessons and computer games to build reasoning skills in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Members were enthusiastic and excited to see the program grow.

GT Problem of Practice: The GT office is working to align gifted math services with Maryland's PreK-12 Mathematics Policy so that every gifted student shows growth that matches their ability. This work is organized around three pillars: Social-Emotional Intelligence, Solving Complex Problems with Productive Struggle, and Academic Achievement. Members responded positively and supported all three pillars, particularly Social-Emotional Intelligence.

2025-2026 GT Parent Night Recap

Last year's GT Parent Night took up most of the discussion. The evening included a guest speaker from MSDE, 11 community guests, and HCPS staff from several offices.

2026-2027 GT Family Engagement Night Planning

Members broke into small groups to share ideas for this year's event. A key theme was making the event family friendly, so the evening works for the whole family and not only parents.

Next Meeting

January 7, 2027, 4:00-5:30 pm. Location to be determined.