

# Gifted Advisory Council

## Ohio Department of Natural Resources

December 3, 2025

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

**Members present:** Abbie Sigmon, Amanda LaFontaine, Anne Flick, Carmen Tarbill, Chloe Backman, Colette Smith, Dawn Harris, Elizabeth Ratliff, Erica Baer-Woods, Jennifer Ehlers, Jessican Burchett, Kylie Duskey, Lindsay Burns, Lynn Carney, Maggie Gunnerson, Michelle Andears, Thomas Betsa, Tom Smith.

## Welcome and Introductions

Maria Lohr convened the December meeting of the Gifted Advisory Council at 9:15 a.m. by welcoming members and reviewing the day's agenda. Following the opening remarks, Dawn Harris, Chair Elect, conducted the roll call to confirm attendance.

## Agenda Items

### MINUTES APPROVAL

The Chair, Anne Flick, invited discussion on the September meeting minutes. As no comments or revisions were offered, Lynn Carney moved to approve the minutes, and Maggie Gunnerson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with all members in favor.

### BYLAW DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Maria Lohr presented an overview of proposed amendments to the Council's bylaws, which included two key changes: allowing for the election of a Chair Elect in the event of a mid-year Chair vacancy and permitting ad hoc committees to meet virtually. Council members reviewed and discussed the proposed language, while Jessica Oldham, legal counsel, addressed questions regarding public meeting laws and their applicability to virtual meetings. After thorough discussion, Anne Flick called for a motion to approve the amendments. Collette Smith moved to adopt the proposed changes, and Jennifer Ehlers seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all members in favor and none opposed.

### COUNCIL HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

Mrs. Lohr led an overview of the Council's history and past initiatives. The discussion highlighted key contributions of the Council, including work on the Gifted Indicator, development of professional learning modules, feedback on revisions to the *Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Students Who Are Gifted*, and the ongoing development of a state plan for gifted education. Member discussion reaffirmed the ongoing need for collaboration between the Department and Council for stakeholder feedback and policy development to support Ohio's gifted students and educators.

## **DEFINING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE WORK**

Ms. Harris facilitated an exercise to identify and align the Council's key priorities and objectives. Members first reflected individually on what they considered most important, then shared insights in small groups and with the full Council. This process helped establish consensus on shared objectives and strategies to advance the Council's mission.

Following this, Ms. Harris and Ms. Flick led brainstorming sessions focused on shaping future work for the Council and ad hoc committees. Discussions emphasized the need for well-defined scopes of work, clear deliverables, and alignment with the Department's strategic priorities (Literacy, Accelerated Learning, Workforce Readiness, and Student Wellness). Members also explored approaches to maintain engagement through regular check-ins, timelines, and consistent documentation. The session concluded with a whole group discussion of common themes and proposed actions to guide future efforts.

## **DEBRIEF, NEXT STEPS, AND CLOSING**

Kerry Martinez and Mrs. Lohr concluded the meeting with a review of upcoming dates and reminders. Closing remarks were shared, and Ms. Flick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynn Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Erica Bear-Woods. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.