

# Gifted Advisory Council

## Ohio Department of Natural Resources

February 18, 2026

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

**Members present:** Anne Flick, Dawn Harris, Maggie Gunnerson, Michelle Andears, Chloe Backman, Erica Baer-Woods, Michele Bagrowski, Leah Barger, Thomas Betsa, Jessican Burchett, Lynn Carney, David Eby, Brandi Goodwin, Stephanie Heidenreich, Stacie Hayne, Lisa Henline, Claire Hughes, Elizabeth Ratliff, Abbie Sigmon, Colette Smith, Tom Smith, Carmen Tarbill.

## Welcome and Introductions

Maria Lohr convened the February 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 roll call to confirm attendance.

## Agenda Items

### MINUTES APPROVAL

Members were given time to review the previous meeting minutes. With no revisions requested, Anne Flick asked for a motion to approve. Colette Smith moved to approve the minutes, and Lynn Carney seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### BYLAW DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Maria Lohr reviewed previously distributed bylaw updates, including a proposal to extend the membership term through July 31. Anne Flick invited feedback on the revisions. No feedback on the proposed change was provided. Maggie Gunnerson recommended adding the chair review of the membership application, selection, and review process to the section on chair responsibilities and Colette Smith proposed including a two-week timeline for meeting materials to the bylaws. Mrs. Lohr deferred this discussion to a future meeting due to the absence of a legal representative and the need for legal review. Maggie Gunnerson motioned to approve the bylaws as presented, with a second by Colette Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE KICK OFF AND EXPECTATIONS

Mrs. Lohr reminded members that all committee meetings with two or more members attending are classified as public meetings and must comply with applicable public meeting laws, including public notice requirements, and confirmed that at least one Department staff member would attend each committee meeting as a facilitator and to ensure public meeting compliance.

A discussion was held on the purpose of the three committees, noting their connection to ongoing work related to the Gifted Plan. Dawn Harris emphasized the importance of examining other states' practices, reviewing district policies, gathering supporting research, and documenting all committee work in the designated folders. Anne Flick described the goal-setting process and asked each committee to identify priority areas, establish timelines, and prepare deliverables for short-term and long-term planning.

## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

### **A. Recognition Committee**

Representing the Recognition Committee, Maggie Gunnerson shared the committee will focus on identifying possible criteria for recognizing schools, districts and other educational providers through the review of current state and national evaluation systems. In addition, the committee will consider the development of an evaluation tool aligned with identified key focus areas. Discussion also focused on the need to recognize various gifted service models in Ohio.

### **B. Gifted Indicator Committee**

Representing the Gifted Indicator Committee, Colette Smith shared the committee's initial focus will be on analyzing publicly available data related to the gifted indicator and other key measures. Data will be analyzed to identify patterns, which will be uploaded into designated folders. In addition, the group will identify additional needed data from the Department of Education and Workforce to continue their analysis.

### **C. Policy Committee**

Representing the Policy Committee, Claire Hughes shared the committee will begin their work by reviewing state and national policies related to gifted identification and services, with particular focus on student populations underrepresented in gifted education. Discussion highlighted the broader purpose of policy, including how laws shape gifted education work, how communication can be improved, and how responsibilities can be more clearly defined.

## **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 Maggie Gunnerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dawn Harris. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.