

Gifted Advisory Council

State Library of Ohio

September 29, 2025

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members present: *Anne Flick, Maggie Gunnerson, Michelle Andears, Chloe Backman, Erica Baer-Woods, Michele Bagrowski, Michelle Barbosa, Leah Barger, Thomas Betsa, Jessica Burchett, Lynn Carney, Kylie Duskey, David Eby, Jennifer Ehlers, Brandi Goodwin, Dawn Harris, Stephanie Heidenreich, Jason Kozina, Elizabeth Ratliff, Colette Smith, Tom Smith, Carmen Tarbill, Heather Townley*

Welcome and Introductions

Maria Lohr called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and welcomed the new committee members to the September Gifted Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Lohr announced that Anne Flick was appointed to the Office of Chair with the resignation of TK Kuykendall from the Council and the Office of Chair. Maggie Gunnerson, Past Chair, called the roll. Ms. Lohr led Council members in a connection activity.

Agenda Items

MINUTES APPROVAL

The Chair, Anne Flick, called for a discussion on the April meeting minutes. It was requested that the full text of the public comment made at the April meeting be added in the minutes instead of a summary. Additionally, a typo was noted. Ms. Flick called for a vote to approve the April 2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Gunnerson, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Lynn Careny seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the two edits discussed.

BYLAW DISCUSSION

Council members discussed the possibility of allowing workgroups to meet virtually. Discussion acknowledged the importance of holding regular Council meetings in person but also recognized the challenges of in person workgroup meetings. Jessica Oldham, legal counsel, noted that state law permits workgroups of public bodies to meet virtually if there is a policy in place. Ms. Lohr stated that the Department could draft such a policy for Council members to review and discuss at a future meeting.

Ms. Flick made a motion to propose an amendment to the Council bylaws that would allow the Council to fill a vacancy in the office of Chair Elect, in the case of a resignation or unexpected vacancy. Maggie Gunnerson seconded the motion. The motion passed and time for a Chair Elect vote was added to the agenda.

OHIO'S INTEGRATED MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS OVERVIEW

Kerry Martinez and Tricia Coutts-Everett shared an overview of Ohio's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. Ohio's Integrated MTSS framework is research-based and takes a proactive approach to refining existing practices and improving system and instructional coherence. The framework emphasizes delivering effective instruction across both academic and non-academic areas to meet the needs of all students. The framework serves students at risk of not meeting grade-level expectations as well as those

ready for instruction beyond grade-level expectations. Ohio's Integrated MTSS framework includes the following student learning components: universal screening, data-based decision making, continuum of supports, progress monitoring, and team-based problem solving. It also includes the following adult implementation components: shared leadership, professional capacity, and communication and collaboration.

OHIO'S INTEGRATED MULTI TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS: GIFTED

Ms. Lohr, Michael Demczyk, and Jeffrey Shoemaker led Council members in a discussion of Ohio's Integrated MTSS framework within the context of gifted education. The discussion emphasized the importance of leveraging the components of Ohio's Integrated MTSS framework to address both the academic and non-academic needs of gifted students. Council members shared their insights and experiences, highlighting the connections between the student learning components and adult implementation components of the framework. They also discussed how these components align with local systems and policies to support gifted education. The conversation underscored the need for a cohesive approach to effectively support gifted students.

CHAIR ELECT VOTE

After lunch, Ms. Flick initiated the process of electing a new Chair Elect by opening the floor for nominations. Dawn Harris stepped forward and nominated herself for the office of Chair Elect. After a brief pause to allow for any additional nominations, no further nominations were made. Ms. Flick proceeded to call for a vote. A voice vote was called in favor, no Nays, and Ms. Harris was elected to serve as the Chair Elect for the 2025-2026 school year.

OHIO'S DRAFT PLAN FOR K-12 GIFTED EDUCATION

Ms. Lohr and Mr. Shoemaker shared updates on Ohio's draft plan for gifted education. These updates included a review of revisions made to the draft based on feedback provided by Council members in the April meeting. Additionally, the vision statement was reviewed, and Council members participated in a discussion to share their feedback. The discussion emphasized the need to make the vision statement more actionable, concise, and clear.

STATE PLAN FEEDBACK

Council members divided into six small groups to review and provide feedback on assigned sections of the draft state gifted plan. The sections covered topics such as the need for the plan, vision and theory of action, strategies for identification, services, professional learning, and communication and engagement. Each group addressed questions to clarify or strengthen their section, align it with Ohio's Integrated MTSS framework, and identify necessary implementation supports for district and building leaders and educators. Responses were recorded on chart paper. Members then participated in a gallery walk to review and add to the feedback, indicating which points they agreed with. This feedback will be incorporated into the draft state plan for gifted education.

DEBRIEF, NEXT STEPS, AND CLOSING

Ms. Lohr led the Council in a discussion about next steps. Some members expressed concern that the next Council meeting was not scheduled until February, as they wanted to move forward with work related to other Council projects, including establishing criteria for identifying and recognizing schools, districts, and other educational providers that demonstrate an exemplary ability to serve students who are gifted. There

was an inquiry about the possibility of adding an additional meeting in December. Ms. Lohr stated that this would be something the Department would look into.

Ms. Flick made a motion to close the meeting, which Ms. Gunnerson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.