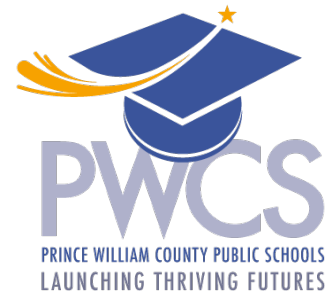


Gifted Education Advisory Committee Minutes
January 20, 2026 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
KLC Room 2011



Attendees

Role	Name	
Facilitators	Heather Ramsey, Chairperson and Brenda Bailey, Supervisor	
Invited	Gifted Advisory Committee Members	
Attendees	<p>At Large: Joseph Longobardo: Present</p> <p>Brentsville: Merianne Jensen: Absent</p> <p>Coles: Vacant</p> <p>Gainesville: Rebecca Chavez: Present Alene Devereaux: Absent Lisa Fox: Absent</p> <p>Neabsco: Adria Cooper: Present</p> <p>Occoquan: Vicki Kieu: Absent Mary King: Present</p> <p>Potomac: Stacy Davis: Present Heather Ramsey: Present</p> <p>Woodbridge: Vacant</p>	<p>Gifted Resource Consultants: Kerry Adkins: Present Dan Bredbenner: Absent Bridget Pine: Absent</p> <p>Admin Consultants: Andrew Buchheit: Present Melissa Edmonds: Present Jackie Overton: Present</p>

Meeting Outcomes:

Members will learn about high school opportunities available to PWCS students.

Agenda

Topic	Time	Meeting Outcomes	Minutes
Call to Order	7:00 p.m.	Meeting called to order	Mrs. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
Minutes	7:05 p.m.	Approval of October 2025 meeting minutes	<p>Corrections: 0</p> <p>Motion for Approval Made By: Ms. Chavez</p> <p>Motion Seconded By: Mr. Longobardo</p> <p><u>Approval Votes</u> At Large: Yea Coles: Vacant Brentsville: Absent Gainesville: Yea</p>

Topic	Time	Meeting Outcomes	Minutes
			<p><i>Neabsco: Yea</i> <i>Occoquan: Yea</i> <i>Potomac: Yea</i> <i>Woodbridge: Vacant</i></p>
Citizen Comment	7:10 p.m.	Opportunity for citizens to share comment	No citizens appeared to provide comments to the committee.
Secondary Opportunities	7:35 p.m.	Learn about opportunities available to PWCS students	<p>Dr. Jason Calhoun, Director of the Governor's School @ Innovation Park (GS@IP), provided the committee with a description of the Governor's School.</p> <p>Dr. Calhoun explained that the purpose of GS@IP is to educate students in the related fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to prepare them to contribute to the global community of the 21st century. GS@IP, which is open to juniors and seniors from PWCS, Manassas, and Manassas Park, is located on George Mason University's Science and Technology Campus in Manassas. GS@IP has been in operation since 2010 and serves 166 gifted and talented students from 15 high schools in the three participating school divisions. Most classes are dual enrollment options through George Mason University. GS@IP classes meet Monday through Friday from 7:30-11:15 a.m. After class, students return to their base schools for other required coursework. This hybrid model allows students to participate in PWCS extracurricular activities and to retain their friendship groups. GMU allocates 166 seats which are distributed among the three participating school divisions. GS@IP students attend classes with other GS@IP students, not GMU students. Students must complete a research project each year. GS@IP has its own full-time counselor, and 100% of their students enroll in college.</p> <p>Parents often have questions about transportation, so Dr. Calhoun explained the process to the committee. Students are bused to/from GS@IP from each PWCS high school. Parents are responsible for transporting their students to the high school closest to the student's home in the morning. At the end of classes, students take a bus back to their base school.</p> <p>The application window for GS@IP is the same as the other specialty programs, though admission decisions may take a little longer than other programs. The application process, which includes an essay requirement and involves a thorough review by an</p>

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			<p>admissions committee, seeks to learn why students would be a good fit for an intensive STEM program.</p> <p>Any questions can be directed to Dr. Calhoun at wcalhoun@gmu.edu.</p> <p>Next, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Supervisor of Advanced Academics and Specialty Programs, provided the committee with a description of PWCS's specialty programs and advanced academic opportunities. She explained that specialty programs are interest based programs that focus on career exploration, subject area concentration, and college/university preparation. There are specialty programs for students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.</p> <p>PWCS and participating schools offer many informational sessions each fall about the various specialty programs available to interested students. The application process runs from November to February, with most programs providing decisions around March 1. When the application window is open, PWCS offers virtual drop-in sessions to help students/parents complete the application. You can choose up to 5 programs, though you must rank them in order of preference. Some programs require essays; individual program sites will have additional information about their specific requirements.</p> <p>Because the majority of specialty programs are transfer programs, parents often have questions about transportation. PWCS utilizes a series of express bus stops, so parents are responsible for getting their students to an express bus stop.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at https://www.pwcs.edu/academics_programs/advanced_academics_specialty_programs/specialty_programs/index. Any questions can be directed to Ms. Cavanaugh at cavanajm@pwcs.edu.</p>
Supervisor's Update	8:15 p.m.	Program updates	<p>Ms. Bailey shared information about the committee's upcoming meeting schedule. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24 and will provide information about summer residential schools and other enrichment programs available to PWCS's gifted and talented students. Committee members will also sign up for school visits at this meeting. Each member should expect to attend 2 school visits in March. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24. At this</p>

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			<p>session, senior gifted students will provide valuable feedback based on their experiences with the county's gifted and talented program. The April meeting (date TBD) will be the committee's parent meeting to talk about school visits.</p> <p>This year's parent university will be held on Saturday, May 9 and will feature two distinguished guest speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author, licensed professional counselor (LPC) and podcaster Emily Kircher-Morris will return to discuss twice-exceptional (2E) students, executive functioning, and helping gifted children nurture friendships. • Author and clinical psychologist Dr. Matt Zakreski will talk about parenting gifted students.
Adjourn	8:30 p.m.	Adjournment of Meeting	Mrs. Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.