

Upcoming Events:

- USOE Technology Implementation Fair
Nov. 7th
- Utah Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference
Jan. 29th-31st

Next meeting

November 13th at Salt Lake School District – Murray hosts.

October 9, 2008

SLCSD

9:30 to 12:30

Gifted and Talented

Coordinators Meeting

Teri Mattson, Jordan District Conducting

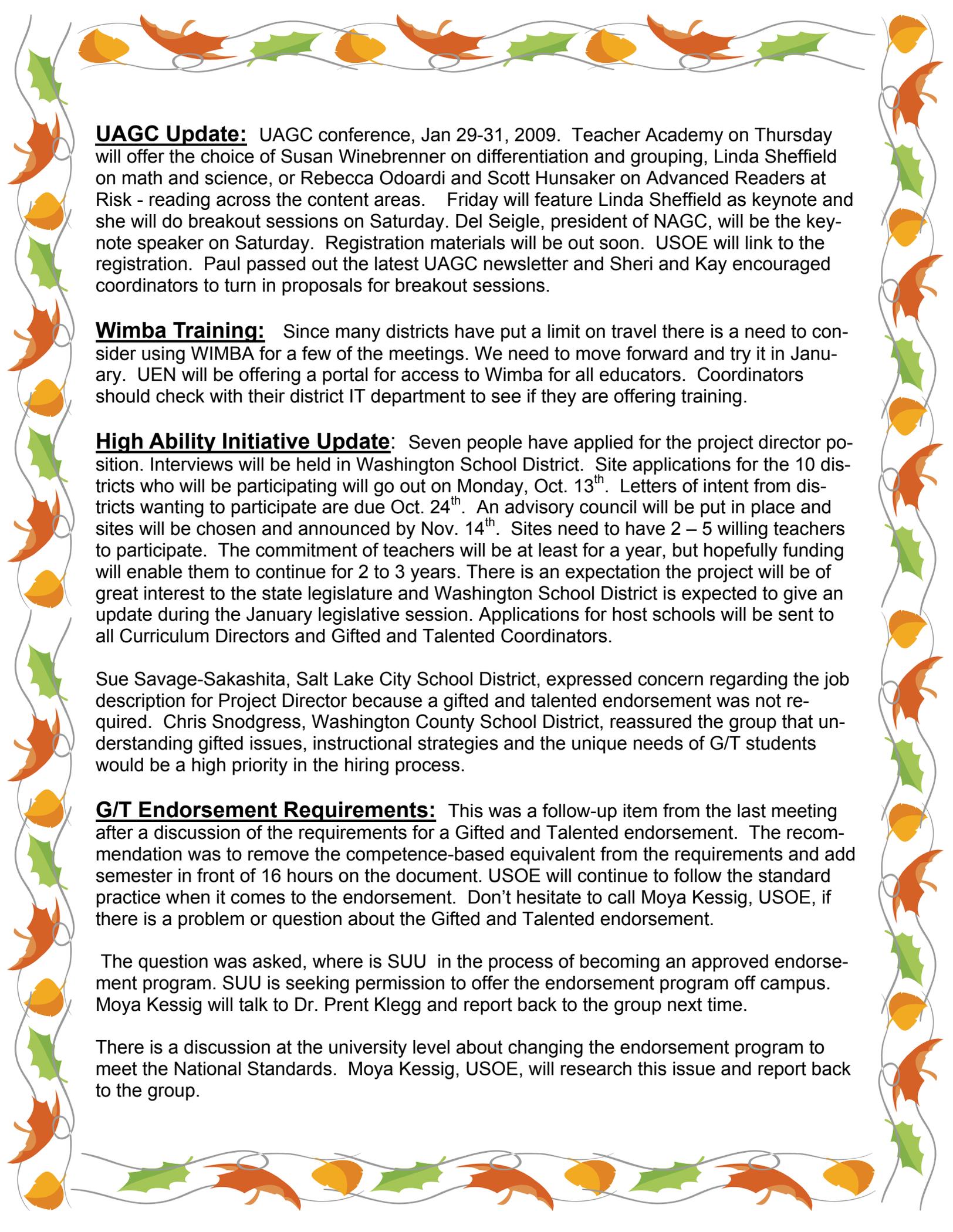
Attendees: Moya Kessig, USOE; Barbara Langford, Alpine; Mark Dockins, Uintah; Sue Savage- Sakashita, SLCSD; Kathy Mackie, Wasatch; Suzanne Allison Ferre, Ogden; Teri Mattson, Jordan; Chris Fournier, Park City; Chris Snodgrass, Washington; Amy Salyer, Washington; Mary Lynn Lewis, Nebo; Sheri Sorensen, Granite; Valerie Pack, Iron; Jonette Wheeler, Cache; Sheri Sauve, Davis; Paul Shepherd, Granite; Jeff Hamin, Tooele; Brian Olmstead, South Sanpete; Kay Erwin, Murray.

Introductions: Teri Mattson, Jordan District conducted the meeting and had the Gifted and Talented Coordinators introduce themselves.

UAGC Southern Utah Conference: Val Pack, Iron County School District, reported on the UAGC conference that was held in Cedar City on Friday, September 26 and 27, 2008. Doreen Wooley spoke to parents on the evening of September 26th with 50 people in attendance. Nancy Weber from the Winebrenner group presented to teachers on Saturday, September 27th on the topic of differentiation. Approximately 163 people attended and Ms. Weber modeled differentiation by dividing the group into 4 subgroups based on their own self assessment of understanding differentiation. She was an excellent presenter. In partnership with Southern Utah University, over 60 pre-service students attended. It was extremely valuable to have a mix of pre-service teachers with current teachers.

Moya Kessig, USOE, requested that Val Pack, Iron County School District, send contact information for Nancy Weber and she will begin a file on excellent presenters and their expertise.

Utah State Office of Education
(USOE)
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200
Phone: 801-538-7742
Fax: 801-538-7769
moya.kessig@schools.utah.gov



UAGC Update: UAGC conference, Jan 29-31, 2009. Teacher Academy on Thursday will offer the choice of Susan Winebrenner on differentiation and grouping, Linda Sheffield on math and science, or Rebecca Odoardi and Scott Hunsaker on Advanced Readers at Risk - reading across the content areas. Friday will feature Linda Sheffield as keynote and she will do breakout sessions on Saturday. Del Seigle, president of NAGC, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday. Registration materials will be out soon. USOE will link to the registration. Paul passed out the latest UAGC newsletter and Sheri and Kay encouraged coordinators to turn in proposals for breakout sessions.

Wimba Training: Since many districts have put a limit on travel there is a need to consider using WIMBA for a few of the meetings. We need to move forward and try it in January. UEN will be offering a portal for access to Wimba for all educators. Coordinators should check with their district IT department to see if they are offering training.

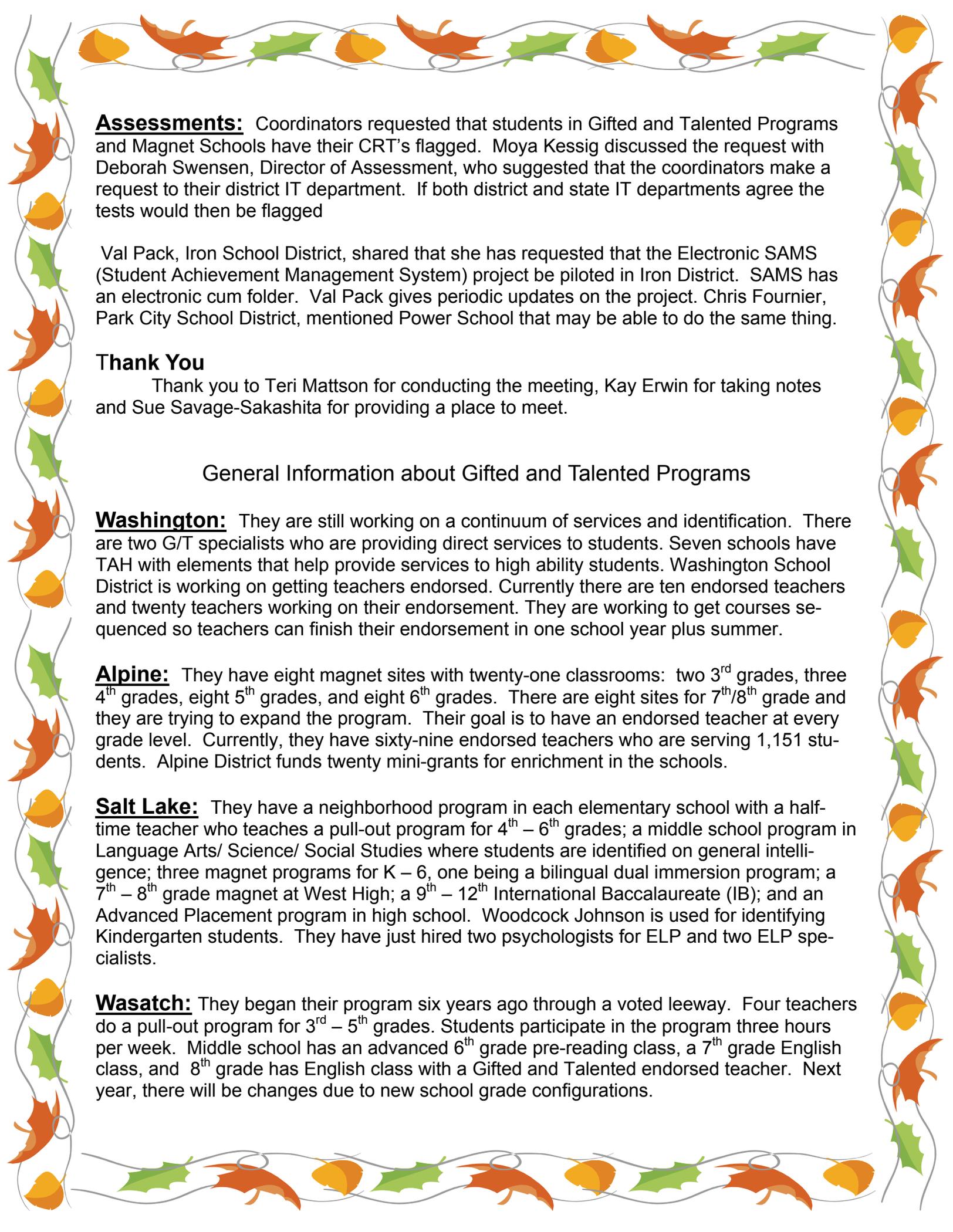
High Ability Initiative Update: Seven people have applied for the project director position. Interviews will be held in Washington School District. Site applications for the 10 districts who will be participating will go out on Monday, Oct. 13th. Letters of intent from districts wanting to participate are due Oct. 24th. An advisory council will be put in place and sites will be chosen and announced by Nov. 14th. Sites need to have 2 – 5 willing teachers to participate. The commitment of teachers will be at least for a year, but hopefully funding will enable them to continue for 2 to 3 years. There is an expectation the project will be of great interest to the state legislature and Washington School District is expected to give an update during the January legislative session. Applications for host schools will be sent to all Curriculum Directors and Gifted and Talented Coordinators.

Sue Savage-Sakashita, Salt Lake City School District, expressed concern regarding the job description for Project Director because a gifted and talented endorsement was not required. Chris Snodgrass, Washington County School District, reassured the group that understanding gifted issues, instructional strategies and the unique needs of G/T students would be a high priority in the hiring process.

G/T Endorsement Requirements: This was a follow-up item from the last meeting after a discussion of the requirements for a Gifted and Talented endorsement. The recommendation was to remove the competence-based equivalent from the requirements and add semester in front of 16 hours on the document. USOE will continue to follow the standard practice when it comes to the endorsement. Don't hesitate to call Moya Kessig, USOE, if there is a problem or question about the Gifted and Talented endorsement.

The question was asked, where is SUU in the process of becoming an approved endorsement program. SUU is seeking permission to offer the endorsement program off campus. Moya Kessig will talk to Dr. Prent Klegg and report back to the group next time.

There is a discussion at the university level about changing the endorsement program to meet the National Standards. Moya Kessig, USOE, will research this issue and report back to the group.



Assessments: Coordinators requested that students in Gifted and Talented Programs and Magnet Schools have their CRT's flagged. Moya Kessig discussed the request with Deborah Swensen, Director of Assessment, who suggested that the coordinators make a request to their district IT department. If both district and state IT departments agree the tests would then be flagged

Val Pack, Iron School District, shared that she has requested that the Electronic SAMS (Student Achievement Management System) project be piloted in Iron District. SAMS has an electronic cum folder. Val Pack gives periodic updates on the project. Chris Fournier, Park City School District, mentioned Power School that may be able to do the same thing.

Thank You

Thank you to Teri Mattson for conducting the meeting, Kay Erwin for taking notes and Sue Savage-Sakashita for providing a place to meet.

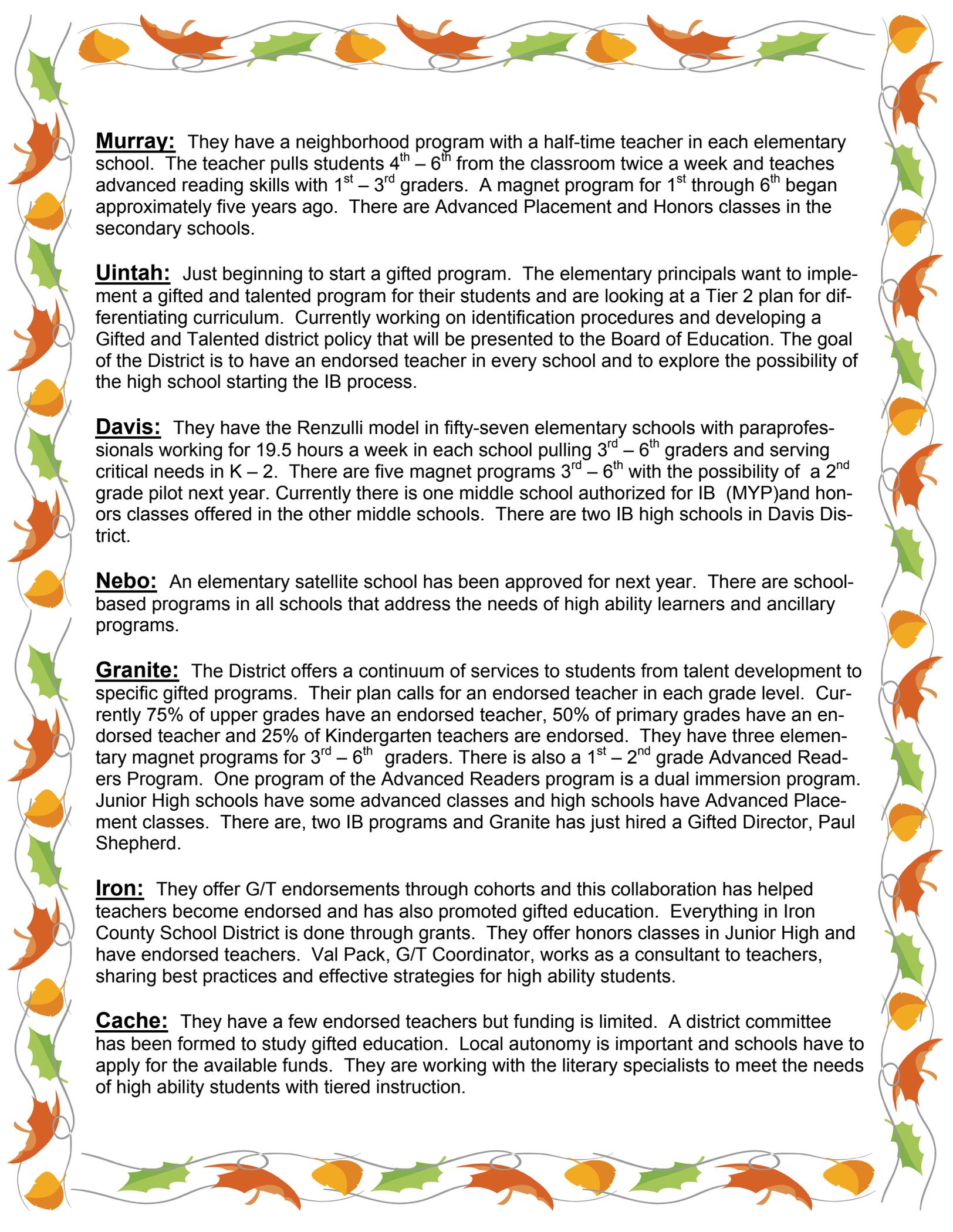
General Information about Gifted and Talented Programs

Washington: They are still working on a continuum of services and identification. There are two G/T specialists who are providing direct services to students. Seven schools have TAH with elements that help provide services to high ability students. Washington School District is working on getting teachers endorsed. Currently there are ten endorsed teachers and twenty teachers working on their endorsement. They are working to get courses sequenced so teachers can finish their endorsement in one school year plus summer.

Alpine: They have eight magnet sites with twenty-one classrooms: two 3rd grades, three 4th grades, eight 5th grades, and eight 6th grades. There are eight sites for 7th/8th grade and they are trying to expand the program. Their goal is to have an endorsed teacher at every grade level. Currently, they have sixty-nine endorsed teachers who are serving 1,151 students. Alpine District funds twenty mini-grants for enrichment in the schools.

Salt Lake: They have a neighborhood program in each elementary school with a half-time teacher who teaches a pull-out program for 4th – 6th grades; a middle school program in Language Arts/ Science/ Social Studies where students are identified on general intelligence; three magnet programs for K – 6, one being a bilingual dual immersion program; a 7th – 8th grade magnet at West High; a 9th – 12th International Baccalaureate (IB); and an Advanced Placement program in high school. Woodcock Johnson is used for identifying Kindergarten students. They have just hired two psychologists for ELP and two ELP specialists.

Wasatch: They began their program six years ago through a voted leeway. Four teachers do a pull-out program for 3rd – 5th grades. Students participate in the program three hours per week. Middle school has an advanced 6th grade pre-reading class, a 7th grade English class, and 8th grade has English class with a Gifted and Talented endorsed teacher. Next year, there will be changes due to new school grade configurations.



Murray: They have a neighborhood program with a half-time teacher in each elementary school. The teacher pulls students 4th – 6th from the classroom twice a week and teaches advanced reading skills with 1st – 3rd graders. A magnet program for 1st through 6th began approximately five years ago. There are Advanced Placement and Honors classes in the secondary schools.

Uintah: Just beginning to start a gifted program. The elementary principals want to implement a gifted and talented program for their students and are looking at a Tier 2 plan for differentiating curriculum. Currently working on identification procedures and developing a Gifted and Talented district policy that will be presented to the Board of Education. The goal of the District is to have an endorsed teacher in every school and to explore the possibility of the high school starting the IB process.

Davis: They have the Renzulli model in fifty-seven elementary schools with paraprofessionals working for 19.5 hours a week in each school pulling 3rd – 6th graders and serving critical needs in K – 2. There are five magnet programs 3rd – 6th with the possibility of a 2nd grade pilot next year. Currently there is one middle school authorized for IB (MYP) and honors classes offered in the other middle schools. There are two IB high schools in Davis District.

Nebo: An elementary satellite school has been approved for next year. There are school-based programs in all schools that address the needs of high ability learners and ancillary programs.

Granite: The District offers a continuum of services to students from talent development to specific gifted programs. Their plan calls for an endorsed teacher in each grade level. Currently 75% of upper grades have an endorsed teacher, 50% of primary grades have an endorsed teacher and 25% of Kindergarten teachers are endorsed. They have three elementary magnet programs for 3rd – 6th graders. There is also a 1st – 2nd grade Advanced Readers Program. One program of the Advanced Readers program is a dual immersion program. Junior High schools have some advanced classes and high schools have Advanced Placement classes. There are two IB programs and Granite has just hired a Gifted Director, Paul Shepherd.

Iron: They offer G/T endorsements through cohorts and this collaboration has helped teachers become endorsed and has also promoted gifted education. Everything in Iron County School District is done through grants. They offer honors classes in Junior High and have endorsed teachers. Val Pack, G/T Coordinator, works as a consultant to teachers, sharing best practices and effective strategies for high ability students.

Cache: They have a few endorsed teachers but funding is limited. A district committee has been formed to study gifted education. Local autonomy is important and schools have to apply for the available funds. They are working with the literary specialists to meet the needs of high ability students with tiered instruction.

Upcoming Events:

- USOE Technology Implementation Fair
Nov. 7th
- Utah Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference
Jan. 29th-31st

Next meeting

November 13th at Salt Lake School District – Murray hosts.

Park City: Just completed an evaluation that stated their program needs to grow. They have formed a G/T advisory committee. For 10 years one person has been the coordinator and the teacher where students are identified in 4th grade for some services. Both junior highs have IB programs and high school has Advanced Placement.

South Sanpete: Currently no program for gifted students but are working on getting teachers endorsed.

Ogden: They have 40 endorsed teachers and instructional coaches in each building; one magnet for K- 6th; program in junior high 7th – 9th and community program in high school.

Jordan: There is a continuum of services available to students and parents at all educational levels. Focus is on differentiation of instruction in all schools. A teacher representative from each school meets monthly for G/T networking. Schools must submit a plan to receive G/T funds. There are seven elementary magnets, one middle school magnet and one IB high school. There is a district charter school for Early College focused on math and science instruction. Four G/T specialists serve as consultants to schools and provide resources for teachers as well as provide professional development.

Fall

Utah State Office of Education
(USOE)
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200
Phone: 801-538-7742
Fax: 801-538-7769
moya.kessig@schools.utah.gov