

Stephanie Karl, President
Upper Saddle River Board of Education
395 West Saddle River Road
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

Dear Mrs. Karl,


Since the Board of Education meeting on March 3, 2008, PAGE has reviewed proposed Policy No. 2464 which is currently under consideration for approval by the Board. Instead of waiting to comment at the next Board meeting, we wanted to bring to your attention at this time a difference we noted comparing it to the DRAFT Policy No. 2464 you provided to us with your letter of November 28, 2007.

The last line of the proposed policy states: "The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any pupil identified as gifted or talented shall be **notified** regarding any program designed to address the pupil's particular needs." (emphasis added) The draft that you provided to us used the word **consulted** in the otherwise same sentence. There is a substantial difference between notifying parents and consulting with parents.

The National Association for Gifted Children Gifted Program Standards, which NJAC 6A:8-3.1(a)(5)(iv) requires the Board to consider, state that as a minimum standard "[g]ifted programming staff must establish ongoing parent communication." The exemplary standards of the NAGC -- which we would hope this Board is striving to meet in its pursuit of excellence in education -- state that "[p]arents of gifted learners should have regular opportunities to share input and make recommendations about program operations with the gifted programming coordinator."

Notification can be fulfilled by a one-time letter to a parent. Consulting means creating an on-going, open avenue of communication between parents and the school, as recommended by the NAGC. We would hope that the Board would agree that the latter is what we want in place as policy in our District. One frequently hears that communication between parents and schools is crucial to the success of students. We would hope that you agree.

Sincerely yours,



Miriam R. Bakal

cc: Peter Koski
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