In attendance were Sandie Jungers and Judy Fairchild, District Staff, and parent representatives Katie Dean, Tammy Crawford, Anjula Jalan, Liane Mattson, Darnell Place-Wise and Jim Hathaway.

Sandie presented the initial results of the State Gifted Education Review (Colorado Gifted Education Review, or CGER) that occurred in September. A final written report will be available in 6 to 8 weeks, and will be shared with GT Site Coordinators and parents, and be made available on the District website. A basic message was the need to continue improving communication between the District office, Site Coordinators and parents.

Sandie also shared the GT Students TCAP results from the 2013-2014 school year. Of note was the flat growth rate in math for GT students, which mirrored the overall District results. This is of particular concern at the middle school/junior high level. Of concern for GT students, is keeping them accelerated in math skills at this middle school/junior high levels. To address this issue, the District has formed a Math Committee of teachers and administrators who are researching different math curricula.

Several parents expressed their concerns over the lack of math support for GT students, including that middle school/junior high math was a repeat of what the kids had done in 6th grade. Judy provided ideas for additional math resources at various websites, including Khan Academy, the Math Counts site, and Kendall Hunt’s M3.

Sandie reported that teachers and administrators had attended various GT Educator Advancement sessions over the summer, and had been provided with copies of a book by Richard Cash titled “Advancing Differentiation”. GT educators are also being trained in the social and emotional components to support GT students.

The parent group expressed a deep need for cross District sharing of GT resources. There was discussion on the ongoing issues with a parent email list due to incorrect addresses and lack of parent feedback. Sandie will investigate other ways for the GT group to communicate including using VolunteerSpot, which the Accountability Committee is using, using Power Announcer, or using the District FirstClass email program to outreach for GT needs across the District. In the interim, parents are encouraged to work through their Site Coordinators for any specific needs, or to contact Judy and Sandie.

Some parents expressed concern over access to their Site Coordinators, and receiving information from them. Judy will provide the list of expectations to the parent group for review, and so parents can assess how to support the Coordinators and foster communication.

Judy and Sandie expressed the need for parent feedback, sharing that there were only 7 respondents to the Survey Monkey request last year. An idea was to have parents complete a survey when they meet with the Site Coordinators to review the ALPs/ICAPs.

Future GT Parent Group meetings are scheduled for February 2, 2015 and March 23, 2015 at the District office.