

**All-Day Kindergarten Task Force
March 27, 2008**

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Hugh Allan
Wendy Barrett
Nicole Brown
Julie Craddock
Patricia Dubiel

Cheryl Isaacs
Stephanie Johnson
Stephanie Korn
Cara Lind
Ruby Linscheid

Paula McGrath
Nina Richardson
Kyla Stefani
Karen Tolliver
Jennifer Woods

Agenda and Discussion

Legislative Budget Update

The legislature funded all day kindergarten to the 10% level which means no Bellingham Schools qualify for state funding. Alderwood is approximately 50 schools down the list. This gives us another year to put the requirements (1000 hours, etc.) for state-funded kindergarten in place.

Proposal for 2008-09

Proposal would be to move forward with five Phase I schools next year. The funding proposal includes parent pay for all schools with a sliding scale for reduced and free students, subsidized by I-728. A subcommittee will work on a fee structure for the Phase I schools.

Discussion/Action On Proposal:

This committee unanimously recommended that we move forward with Phase I schools implementing a fee-based all day kindergarten with half day options, as outlined in the proposal for next year. This recommendation will be forwarded to Dr. Vedra.

Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

There was discussion about the need to align preschool and Kindergarten curriculum standards and content. Instructional delivery models and professional development were also discussed.

The High Scope K-3 Program was introduced as a possibility to address alignment, consistency and professional development needs.

There is a strong knowledge base that exists among our early childhood staff, but using an outside agency for common philosophy and stronger alignment of practice philosophy may be helpful. Training should include all kindergarten and preschool teachers. There should be ongoing follow-up and support. We will contact High Scope for more detail on their program including professional development piece. We will also look at some schools that are using the High Scope Program in order to gather information from them.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be April 3 from 4:00 – 5:30 in Central Services Conference Room 112.