



Pre-K Advisory Review Team
March 13, 2014
Notes, Meeting #3

8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Central Services Room 212

Attendance: Kris Smith, Sharon Missiaen, Emily Teeter, Kate Baehr, Cindy Pearson, Trina Hall, Kristi Dominguez, Tammy Koch, Laura Horan, Jen Mallett, Debbie Haney, Kris Newberry, Beth Nelson, Amy McAuliffe, Gina Ney, Danene Park, Kristine Wilson.

Unable to Attend: David Webster, Kim Walbeck, Mike Haberman, Stephanie Korn,

Notes:

Welcome: Overview of the Day

Opportunity Council “Key Indicator Review” audit came out successful. Head Start has been going through a re-authorization process. They won back their grant. The Opportunity Council is only agency that has won their grant in the state.

Kudos:

We are half way through our meetings and Debbie is excited.

Matt Whitten, Birchwood Principal, will join us in the afternoon to show us the design of Birchwood and the two preschool rooms.

Beth’s 2 ½ year old has learned to walk.

Purpose of Advisory Review Team:

Review of last meetings minutes.

Updates:

Promise K update: Early entrance kindergarten is moving forward. 70 letters were sent from the Opportunity Council. We could have up to three classrooms with a teacher and a paraeducator. Enrollment will determine the locations of the classrooms. Discussion of when an evaluation may be done on a student. This 9-10 week program will not be used to evaluate a student.

For Good of the Order:

Presentation:

School Board and Parent Advisory presentation on early learning was shared with the committee. Kristi shared the Bellingham School District’s collaboration with numerous community partners to support children from prenatal through grade three. Board Members also toured the early childhood learning classrooms at Geneva and were hosted by district early childhood staff to learn about preschool, GRADs, Birth to Three, and full day kindergarten. Details from Kristi’s early childhood presentation can be found here.

<https://bellingshamschools.org/sites/default/files/EarlyChildhoodPACPresentation3-19-14reduced.pdf>

GRADS: Great appreciation for the program and the team.

[The trouble with calls for universal 'high-quality' pre-K | The Answer Sheet](#)

Reflections:

- Made a lot of sense. Play for play-sake. So much of what preschoolers are learning is how to move around with in the environment and not sitting doing academics. Developing the internal locus of control. Every kinder is required to have at least one hour of student directed play in BPS.
- In our state we are in a push-up not push down. We live in a state that appreciates the push up model. ECEAP expansion slots has increased the hours of the day, but not increased instruction.
- This article is meant to be thought provoking. Be a critical consumer. The author is an editorial writer, not an educator.

Debbie Presentation: Debbie shared a presentation on inclusion – the importance of it, different models, the purpose, and law. Discussion included:

- We need to be able to be flexible and have a variety of programs or models of inclusion to meet the varying needs of children.
- Transitioning to kindergarten from a preschool within their home school is a great support to students.
- We need a continuum of services.
- Discussion around Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- The goal is to have more inclusive preschools across our system.

We looked at “Desired State” for preschool models.

Categorizing Needs / Areas of Focus:

Student Focused:

- Delivery models/Inclusion
- Transitions

Adult Issues:

- Staffing
- Space
- Collaboration

Work Session:

Teams rotated through a session with Matt Whitten showing the floor plan for Birchwood. Matt received feedback on space set up, configuration, and preschool needs from each group OT, PT, SLP, Psychs, partner preschools, and special education preschools.

Specialists worked with Mike Haberman to unpack the needs for OT, PT, SLP, Psychs as related to preschool.

Preschool teachers worked with Kristi to further develop the High Quality Preschool document.

Administrators worked together, led by Kate Baehr, on family engagement, partnerships and leadership.

Share Out Working Session:

Tammi Koch: Environment should be similar to Kinder environment.

Kate Baehr: Common Calendars, communication, involvement in MDT

Mike Haberman for Specialist: Models, **single evaluation** site to increase consistency for families. Office Space available. Mini-classroom, gross motor skills area, separate office that is quiet, area for parents to complete paperwork. A way for parents to see a pre-k classroom and students could visit. Models for assessment teams. The teams are very spread out. **More FTE**. They will push and explore levels of staffing. The effect has been that specialists are not being as effective as possible and often feel like they are running to IEP meetings only. **Itinerant preK teacher** to serve kids who don't qualify for direct service, but still need some service. Use them as a consultant. Current SLP ratios are too high. Are our current SLP's assigned appropriately?

Closing:

Excited to develop a model that is inclusive

Appreciated that Mike was here for the specialists

Well-grounded group of people. So much perspective in the room.

Don't' toss a bone and then leave us alone

Excited about additional FTE in one building to collaborate

Seeing the social/emotional needs in kids, preK, 1st & 2nd.

Take some of the success that WCC has had with their parent groups.

How do we harness the love and relationship with their kids to nurture the kids along?

Thinking out of the box today was good.

Mike's leadership was wonderful.

Mike appreciated talking through touchy subjects like staffing.

Next meeting:

Building models based on available sites.

Transition and delivery models.

Short term recommendation vs. long term direction and desired state

Looking ahead at next meeting, we will meet again on Thursday, March 26 at the District Office.

Individual members wrote reflections on their tent cards.

<i>Share one thing you learned or are excited about:</i>	<i>What concerns or questions do you have?</i>
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Planned Agenda for 3/13/14

1. News, Updates, For Good of the Order
 - a. Good of the Order / Kudos
 - b. Promise K Update
2. Informational Items
 - a. Reflections/feedback from Meeting #2; Review Notes
 - b. Plan for the day – norms, outcomes, AM/PM plan
 - i. AM: Big Picture
 - ii. PM: Logistical, with an eye toward possible solutions, models, and fall input
3. Learning Session
 - a. Board Early Childhood Presentation
 - b. Research / Best Practices / Current Articles
 - c. WERA Presentations and/or Kaurez' Presentation
 - d. Presentation by Debbie H on inclusion in a preschool setting
4. Building on Work in Progress:
 - a. Review High Quality Preschools Document (possibly next time, with Kaurez presentation)
 - i. Activity: How will we monitor success?
 - b. Review Bone Diagrams: Desired State – Drivers & Barriers
 - i. Activity: Identify key barriers to address
 1. Copies, partners and rotations, hear from one another
 2. Largest barriers?
5. LUNCH – One Hour, On Own
6. Projecting for Fall 2014 –
 - a. Where will we have options for PreKs in our schools?
7. Possible Stations
 - a. Birchwood - Input (MATT)
 - b. Transitions – Transition Forms; Options for placement (Preschool Teachers & Partners)
 - c. Professional Learning – map out a PD plan for next year (Preschool Teachers & Partners) Service Delivery Models (OT/PT/SLP/Preschool T's) – with Mike
 - d. Assessment Models (Psychs) - with Mike
 - e. Preschool Guide (Preschool Teachers) – with Kristi
8. Developing Pre K Models
9. Closing