

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting
April 18th, 2018
2:00-3:00 P.M.
Family Service and Children's Aid



Present: Cathy Brubaker, Wendy Bell, Elizabeth Mclain, Jackie Barber, Cody Blair, Stephanie Denney, Don Tassie, Brittany Nortley, Bob Powell, Gretchen Dula, Mary Belknap, Elizabeth Lloyd, Brock Lloyd, Jen Ganzel, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions.

2. Review February Minutes

- Group reviewed February minutes.

3. Kindergarten Transition Kits

- Elementary principals gave feedback for additional books.
 - Biscuit book was added this year.
- Instead of a journal with lines, we included a blank book so that parents do not feel that children have to stay within the lines.
- Instead of pencils, we added crayons. This eliminates the need for a pencil sharpener.
- A feedback postcard has been added this year. One area of feedback we will receive is if families were given instruction on how to use the kits.
- Preschool teachers will get a kit to show parents what they will receive at kindergarten round-up.
- Cody Blair stated Concord has already given out the kits and they have been well-received.
 - Can we put in dice?
 - Small whiteboard with marker?
 - Instruction sheet?
- Elizabeth Lloyd stated that these kits are much better than she has received in the past for her older children.

4. Early Childhood Specialists - Update

- Green sheet- TS Gold/classrooms that use Creative Curriculum
 - 0% and 100% are questioned at this time of year. There is always room growth and progression.
 - P1-P9 are programs, we don't use names.
- White sheet- Highscope
 - All areas have increased since winter.
 - This data shows us what kids need more of. What else do we need to offer programs/train the teachers on to get scores up?
 - The scores are observational by the teachers.
- Early Childhood Specialists will be trained for the MKEO (Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation).
 - This will replace PALS.
 - The hope is that this will create a bridge between preschool and kindergarten teachers.

5. GSRP Slot Allocations

- We usually serve about 700 children with the slots that we receive.
- St. Mary's is no longer doing GSRP, but they have private tuition preschool.
- We asked the state for 1180 slots for next year, but haven't heard an answer yet. We are planning ahead with our current slot allocation of 1135.
 - If we get additional slots, discussion should include areas of need.
- The new transportation law may become an issue for school districts that provide preschool transportation.
 - It will cost a bus driver \$70 to undergo a background check (this is completely different than the background check districts currently provide).
 - More discussion to come.
- Enrollment begins in July.

6. Discuss Transitions to Kindergarten (challenges, successes, next steps)

- Parent guides regarding kindergarten enrollment from MDE were discussed.

- New 3rd grade reading law – if children are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade, they can be retained.
- Young-5's is considered retention.
- Parents can turn down Young-5's. This isn't well known.
- What is the best way to get this information out to families?

7. Committee Member Updates

- Elizabeth Mclain shared that a QR Code for the preschool interest form has been created. This will be shared with us so we can add it to our preschool flyer.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 16th from 2:00-3:00 P.M. at Family Service and Children's Aid