

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting
January 25, 2018
1:00 – 2:00 pm
Family Service and Children’s Aid



Present: Kristy Wood, Cindy Spiess, Stephanie Denney, Molly Burr, Brittany Nortley, Jean Allison, Wendy Bell, Don Tassie, Andrea McCabe, Cathy Brubaker, Lisa Hunt, Kelly Sheppard, Kelly Friedland, Chrissy Blackwell

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions

2. Review October Minutes

- Group reviewed October minutes

3. Kindergarten Transition Kits

- 16/17 list was provided on which school requested the kids, how many were awarded, and what PALS scores were. 17/18 list provides the same information, but adds if they participated in Bridges Out of Poverty/School Readiness.
 - No changes needed for kit requests this year.
- We have budgeted for 1500 kits. There are typically 1700 kindergartners each year.
- How should the kits be distributed this year?
 - Preschool-Kindergarten link is essential.
 - Schools need to connect with community partners.
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4. Summer Literacy Labs

- The Great Start Collaborative received money from Consumers Energy to support literacy labs over the summer in order to decrease “summer slide.”
- Melissa Bulgrien from the ISD is already involved in the work.
- What should we do at the events?

- Invite free summer lunch programs- “Meet Up and Eat Up”
- Connect with Jackson District Library.
- Look into which skills are lower for the area we are attending and focus on those. Use PALS data.
- Ask schools to host a lab focusing on transitions to preschool/kindergarten.
- Playgroups?
- Utilize high school students that would like to help host.
- Include tips that parents can do at home to increase literacy skills.

5. 18-19 Preschool Planning

- Current waitlist was provided to show which preschools are saturated.
- CAA will probably not have preschool at McCulloch.
 - Phoenix Academy-Prospect location has not been getting any extra inquiries because of McCulloch closing.
- Francis Street Primary grand opening set for early March.
 - Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will have one classroom each. Approximately 20 children per classroom.
- Families have been asked if Parma is close enough for the need in Springport.
- Slot request form and distribution process was provided.
 - Both forms look good, no changes needed.
 - 1035 GSRP slots were awarded in 17/18. 1186 have been requested this year.

6. Announcements

- Great Start Breakfast, “Celebrating Parents” will take place on February 2nd.
- School Readiness meetings are now being held the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm at Family Service and Children’s Aid.

Next meeting: February 21st, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 pm at Family Service and Children’s Aid