

Ready for Kindergarten

April 22, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: Ami Aalgaard, Stephanie Hubbard, Jen Kondos, Jason Luksik, Kathy Palm, Karin Revering, Sue Roetman, Janelle Saiger, Wendy Templin, Kathy VanWert, Pat Welte, Tami Wesely

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 at the district board room. Members introduced themselves. Janelle Saiger replaced Vicki Wangberg as the parent educator for ECFE. Sue Roetman attended in place of Sandy Eberhart, and Karin Revering attended in place of Jolene Enerson, so all programs and schools were represented.
2. We reviewed the January 9, 2015 minutes and discussed the areas of concern and to-do items. We still have concerns about reaching the children in need of pre-school services because of lack of transportation, no lunch program, lack of space, and the difficulty of reaching the families most in need of services.
3. Janelle, Sue, and Jen discussed their plans for **2015-2016 Preschool Programming**. The four-year-old programs are all full day, two to three times per week, seven total classes. The Jack & Jill program provides 80 spots, and all were full as of April 1. The Community Center provides 60 spots, and 12 are currently available. Three special education spots are reserved for each class for a total of 21 available. The three-year-old program offers two hours, twice or once a week for 64 slots. Their students come consistently and they do not have the mobility we see at the elementary schools.
4. We discussed **Pre-School Screening**, and we are still trying to find ways to screen more students. The schools that have the least screenings are: Central, J. W. Smith, and Solway. Early Childhood provides each student who is screened with a T-shirt and a book. We discussed ways they could reach more families to let them know their children should be screened such as: Sanford Health, elementary family activity nights, and elementary orientation. Sandy Eberhart is working with HR to hire Pre-School Screening testing teams, so they can offer more pre-school screening opportunities. Space is needed, and Wendy suggested they contact area churches. Karin Revering will provide Early Childhood with the list of students who have registered for kindergarten, so they can contact any who have not been screened.
5. Karin Revering shared the number of students who are **registered for kindergarten**. She said that the numbers have been higher each year at this time. So far, 298 students are registered with the following numbers at each school: Central= 31, J. W. Smith= 53, Lincoln= 74, Paul Bunyan= 140.
6. Kathy explained that the **Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten DVD** is not in the works. Brian Hammitt has done nothing with it, and Ben Aube said he would check

to see what photos the students completed. Ben is willing to help with it, but he does not have time during the school year. Kathy will again visit with Ben to see if he can start this summer. We need to find out if Vicki Wangberg is still willing to narrate the DVD. If not, Sue Roetman's name was suggested because she has a nice voice.

7. Kathy showed J. W. Smith's **Kindergarten Packet** and plans to order materials similar to those. She has already ordered the student books, but most of the items will be ordered with the new Title I application after July 1 for all kindergarteners. We discussed who could put the packets together, and MN Reading Corps tutors would be good candidates. We could possibly have them do this early August and package them for the schools.
8. Jason shared what Lincoln does for **Kindergarten Registration**. They hold the registration in the library, where there is plenty of room. They have signs with balloons pointing the way to that location. The school nurse, principal, secretary, National Honor Society members, and one kindergarten teacher each of the three nights work at the event. While the parents complete the forms, resources are provided for children to color. Then students and their parents go on a Treasure Hunt to find different rooms in the school. When they complete their card, they receive a sucker from Jason. This event is a great success with families.
9. The elementary schools will continue their **Transition Plans** and include activities for students and their parents during orientation. This year they will also be able to give each student a Kindergarten Packet.
10. In other business, Stephanie shared that **Leech Lake Head Start** had contacted her to set a date to visit kindergarten classrooms. Jason said they already contacted him to be at Lincoln on Thursday. They tour the school, eat lunch there, and see kindergarten classrooms.
11. We will set our next meeting date in fall 2015 once school is underway. Next year we will need to focus on the transition of grades 4 and 5 to the new school and bringing the kindergarten students back to their home schools from Paul Bunyan. We will also discuss the transition of pre-school to Paul Bunyan, and we should know more at that time whether the legislature will provide additional funds for expanding our pre-school programs.
12. The meeting closed at 2:30.