

Pre K Leadership Team Notes 09/20/18

We began by sharing our name, role and by finishing this prompt, "It's important to me to be involved with this PreK Leadership team because..."

Here are some ideas shared:

- Someone's got to do it!
- Connected to a bigger goal
- Collaborative effort/ networking
- Pre K is important/ networking
- Feel part of a bigger group
- Early learning is integral to our district's success

Then we took just a bit of time to provide context and history of this group. Here are the big ideas:

- World's Best Workforce is the State's initiative that expects each district to create goals in 5 areas:
 - All students are ready for kindergarten
 - All students read well by grade 3
 - Closing the achievement gap
 - All students are ready for college and career
 - All students meet graduation requirements
- Our district's kindergarten readiness goal has been focused on literacy (recognition of 13 upper and 13 lower case letters and 8 letter sounds) but there's a significant recognition that social/ emotional readiness is equally important... just more difficult to measure.
- Last year we began this leadership team and our focus was outreach to providers to offer professional development

This group's goals are guided by these questions:

- Beyond data, what evidence would we see in order to confidently say that we're working toward all children being ready for Kindergarten?
- What would we see in our programming?
- How would we be collaborating; what might that collaboration look like?
- How will we know that everyone is "owning" their part?
- Given that we want to make progress and feel good about making that progress, what might be one of the "low hanging fruit" pieces of our goal?
- What is a high priority that we may need to break into smaller, more manageable action steps?

These are last year's working goals:

- Share criteria for social/ emotional readiness – develop a continuum modeled after academic standards
- Create and distribute developmental milestones (similar to those shared by medical practitioners – but geared specifically to education)
- Send out monthly emails to those who opt in of tips for parents and providers

- Ensure that at meetings we have some time dedicated to what steps people are taking to make progress toward our kindergarten readiness goal
- Create videos of kindergarten activities followed up with ideas about how providers can lay a foundation leading to success
- Networking time needs to recognize that being a provider is a business and therefore there is legitimate competition while acknowledging that we're here to work together to support our children
- Outreach to family, friend and neighbor daycare with carefully crafted language and ongoing discussion
- Create a Hastings PreK Facebook page

We took some time to discuss these questions related to these goals:

- What evidence will we see when these goals are "accomplished"?
- How high of a priority are each of these working goals?
- What ideas might you have about what's missing from our list?

We determined our high priority areas for this year are:

- Social/ emotional readiness continuum (something concrete- and strategies)
- Create a website to house various resources and link to community ed and to the elementaries to include:
 - Committee notes
 - Checklists
 - Opt in link to monthly emails from Debby
 - K Readiness goal
 - Share how early childhood screening is different than K assessment
 - Calendar of PD events
- Videos – survey kindergarten teachers to determine what are the highest priority skills and then work to determine what Pre K can do to support readiness in K in those areas
- Expand outreach – to HFS and total life care center
- Share more information with parents as to what they can do at home

Then we shifted to discuss Professional Development opportunities. Here's the plan from last year:

- October – Ice Cream Social – make and take and network time, hand out calendar of events for the year
- November – early childhood screening – when, where, purpose
- December – Social emotional readiness – unpack ECIPS and share guidance as to how to respond to and be proactive related to early learners' behaviors
- January – Special education
- February – Literacy with kindergarten teachers (I love to read month)
- March – library
- April – unpacking ECIPS and make and take
- May – assessment

A Tornado siren interrupted our work. Angie will pull together ideas for October PD session.

This year's meeting dates (we can amend dates in October if necessary)

- October 16
- November 20
- December 18
- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21

Pre K PD dates for this year:

- October 9
- November 7
- December 4
- January 8
- February 5
- March 6
- April 2
- May 7