

Pre K Leadership Team 02/27/18

We began with a quick conversation about these questions: Imagine you're talking to your neighbor about your role on the Pre K Leadership team. What's one thing you'd say that we're doing well? What's one area that you'd say we have as a growth opportunity? Some ideas shared were:

- Cohesion
- Sticking to a big plan
- Cross-community representation
- Growing professional development
- People are excited
- Good professional development
- Trying to find out what people are eager to learn
- Filling in the holes with providers
- Seeking connections with those we haven't partnered with yet

Then we checked in on homework – particularly how folks are sharing and what feedback have we heard. Here are the highlights:

- Sharing with other program(s) but haven't received any feedback
- People are excited about PD
- Cohesion among providers

Then we debriefed January and February PD opportunities

January (ECSE):

- Panel approach worked well
- Lots of great questions from providers and answers were thoughtful and helpful
- Good turn out
- Affirmation of some of the thoughts and ideas that providers were having
- Meeting ECSE staff put everyone at ease for potential future contact
- Liked having faces with names that were already familiar
- Idea: use name tents at PD so that name recall is easier
- ECSE is a good topic for next year – perhaps talking specifically about intervention ideas
 - Language/ speech, what can I do as a provider if I see potential issues?
 - What games or activities are appropriate?
 - What do the eval tools generally look like?
- Idea: seek questions ahead of time to allow presenters to prepare

February (Partnership with Library):

- Song block Make and take was fun
- Lots of repeat information
- Perhaps better for parents
- Pretty basic
- Would have liked resources to be shared with group

- Collaboration – library was appreciative

Then we shifted to review and give feedback on the checklist that was created by pre K/ K group. Then we brainstormed how we could distribute the checklist.

- Mary will make minor changes to reflect feedback from the group including branding with District logo
- Put up on FaceBook site
- Have at all professional development
- Share at preschool screening
- Put in folder at kindergarten round up
- Give a stack to the library
- Angie will check with Dr. office to see if we can share there
- Add checklist to enrollment page
- When we have a preK website, add it there

Then we shifted gears to discuss and finalize plans for April Make and Take PD.

Angie, Kelli, Kim/ Shauna, Samantha will facilitate (Angie will take Literacy, Shauna/ Kim will do Social/ Emotional, Samantha will do Fine Motor and Kelli will take on Math)

Angie will do Pizza Box car/ letter parking lot.

- Angie and Kelli will request pizza boxes
- Angie will find paper for pizza box parking lot

Kelli will do 2 activities – the tweezer, dice, small counting item and the pipe cleaner, bead activity

- Jenn will get tweezers and dice

Sam will share a number of activity possibilities

Kim will do something with emotions on a dice

- Sam will send the emotion face website to Kim

Then we shifted to discuss where to begin with building community partners. The team was asked to generate ideas about with whom we could form partnerships and write one idea per post it note. Then, we came up to the board and placed them on a continuum from easy to form to a longer term goal. Then, we selected three organizations to reach out to and invite them to our May meeting to discuss how we could work together on behalf of preK readiness. The three organizations are:

- YMCA
- Hastings Family Services
- Library
- We also wondered if it may be good to invite someone from medical practice to begin working toward a long term relationship

Here are all of the ideas we generated:

| Easy Partnerships | It'll take a bit of work | Longer term goal |
|--|---|---|
| WIC – public health Little libraries in town Black dirt Students Chiropractors Police department Fire department Parks and rec Sports leagues TLC of Hastings United Way of Hastings | Radio station Boy scouts Girl scouts 4h Grocery stores Realtors Vermillion bank | Spring Lake Park Chamber of Commerce Dentist Doctor's offices Flint Hills Resources Walmart Insurance agencies Community businesses Lion's club Pizza places/ restaurants Creative arts space |

Then we checked in on our longer term goals:

- Share criteria for social/ emotional readiness – develop a continuum modeled after academic standards **Not yet begun – will bring to PreK/ K group**
- Create and distribute a reasonable checklist of readiness characteristics – to be created by the preK – K collaborative **Shared with team this evening, amendments to be made and distributed to this group asap.**
- Create and distribute developmental milestones (similar to those shared by medical practitioners – but geared specifically to education) **Not yet begun – in the past the District has shared a calendar with activity ideas. Grant has been written for calendars – will keep the group in the loop**
- Send out weekly/ monthly emails to those who opt in of tips for parents and providers – **Debbie Flemming has been sending out newsletters to those contacts that she has**
 - Form has been created – **7 responses – and those have been shared. Need to get the word out!**
 - Blurb has been written for next Community Ed catalogue about our leadership team
- Ensure that at meetings we have some time dedicated to what steps people are taking to make progress toward our kindergarten readiness goal **Each meeting we do a check in on our progress**
- Create videos of kindergarten activities followed up with ideas about how providers can lay a foundation leading to success **No yet begun; To begin collecting and curating this Spring for use as early as next year**
- Share structure and content of KAT **Topic for May PD. Mary will contact K teachers to share at meeting**
- 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 **Will be built into March PD**

- Outreach to family, friend and neighbor daycare **Carefully crafted language and ongoing discussion**
- Create a Hastings PreK Facebook page **Will discuss at April meeting. What content? Who will maintain?**

Then we reviewed the prongs of our work so far:

- Leadership team meetings - facilitated by Jenn
 - 4 to 5 meetings per year
 - Strategic Planning group
- Pre K and Kindergarten teachers - facilitated by Mary
 - 4 to 5 meetings per year
 - Conversations between Tilden Pre K and ISD 200 Kindergarten
 - What's the long term purpose? How many should attend? Who should be represented?
- Professional Development – **facilitated by Angie**
 - Monthly PD

Updated: Angie has agreed to be the organizer of PD.

Next steps:

- Meeting date: April 25
 - Debrief PD (March and April) check in on May PD
 - Membership on leadership team – what's the commitment, role, who belongs on the team?
 - Set dates for 18-19 school year
 - Continue checking on goals and goal setting
 - Revisit PreK – K work group – what is the role we imagine they have?
 - Facebook page –Do we want/ need one? What content? Who will maintain?

Homework:

- Angie will contact doctors' office to see if we can share checklist
- Angie and Kelli will request pizza boxes
- Angie will find paper for pizza box parking lot
- Jenn will get tweezers and dice – done!
- Sam will send the emotion face website to Kim
- Mary will connect with K teachers to share KAT at May PD
- Share summary notes with group (non-public, center-based, home daycare)
- Elicit feedback about our goal and continued action step ideas