

## Pre-K Leadership Team notes 10/24/17

We began with introductions (sharing names, in what capacity we work with preschool children and finishing this prompt: In order for tonight to have been worth my time, I would like to walk away with you..."

Those present:

Angie McGinnis – Early Childhood Coordinator at Tilden

- Clear vision of a few next steps

Kim Sill – Director of St. Phillips

- Information about preschool screening
- Want to affirm that our programming supports readiness for kindergarten expectations

Debbie Flemming – Parent Educator/ Outreach

- Want some concrete ideas I can share with parents and providers

Samantha Schmidt – Lead Pre-K teacher at Little Beginnings

- Want concrete ideas about programming – affirm that what we're doing supports readiness expectations
- Interested in knowing what Kindergarten teachers want from incoming students

Kelly Kimmes – Home daycare provider

- Want concrete ideas about programming – affirm that what we're doing supports readiness expectations
- Interested in knowing what Kindergarten teachers want from incoming students

Jenn Reichel – Director of Teaching and Learning for Hastings

- Walk away with action steps to support our community's growth

Mary Pasch – K-6 Coordinator

- Bring the community together through our continued work

Sarah Kloeckl – Assistant Director of Special Services

- Assist team as appropriate

After introductions, we shifted to learn about ISD 200's goal as it relates to World's Best Workforce and Kindergarten Readiness.

Goal: Working toward all students being ready for the expectations of kindergarten, we will increase the percentage of student who meet district criteria of identification of 13 upper and lower case letters and 8 letter sounds upon entering kindergarten.

Here's how we've done over the past three years:

2015		2016		2017		
Number	% meeting	Number	% meeting	Number	% meeting	Benchmark
233	79%	205	74%	220	77.2%	13+ uppercase
209	71%	185	66.8%	201	70.5%	13+ lowercase
152	52%	151	54.5%	155	54.4%	8+ letter sounds
152	52%	149	53.8%	147	52%	All 3 benchmarks

Leadership team was asked to share initial thoughts about our goal and our progress. Some ideas shared were:

- Expectations are much lower than we anticipated
- Would love to see a social/ emotional component
- Recognition that self-regulation supports academic success so it's necessary to work on that as well but there's a recognition that this is difficult to measure
- Surprised that there's no math goal

Then we shared what steps we've taken as a district over the past year to support growth on our kindergarten readiness goal. Some of the bigger tasks we've taken on are:

- Collaboration: Tilden Pre-K and ISD 200 Kindergarten Teachers Collaboration
- Improvements at Tilden:
  - Social-Emotional- Conscious Discipline Implementation at Tilden
  - Continued work on Academic Skills
    - Creative Curriculum
    - TS Gold
    - Use of Pre-KAT Assessment to assess progress
  - Co-Teaching- General Education Teacher and Special Education Teacher
  - Classes- All Preschool Classes are Integrated, Added 5 Half Day Option
  - Added Transportation for all AM classes for a monthly fee
- Expanded vision: Small group of ISD 200 leaders attended Pre-K-3 Leadership Series
- Hosted meeting with providers in Spring of last year to share our desire for collaboration
- Extended collaboration: Created partnerships beyond Tilden - "Ready for Kindergarten" involves the entire community so we expanded our leadership group to include everyone here!

We revisited the role of the leadership team:

- Work to create a community-wide plan to support all students being ready for kindergarten
- Participate in 4-5 meetings per year
- Serve as a representative of a larger group
  - Share content from the meetings with group (non-public, center-based, home daycare) colleagues
  - Invite feedback to share at leadership meetings
- Advise development and implementation of plan

Then we worked to brainstorm some possible next step. Our intent is to tackle some easy to accomplish tasks to build our momentum before taking on a larger initiative. We came up with a variety of ideas. Those in bold and highlighted are the tasks we've agreed to take on in the short term:

- Share criteria for social/ emotional readiness – develop a continuum modeled after academic
- **Create and distribute a reasonable checklist of readiness characteristics – to be created by the preK – K collaborative**
- Create and distribute developmental milestones (similar to those shared by medical practitioners – but geared specifically to education)
- **Send out weekly/ monthly emails to those who opt in of tips for parents and providers**
  - **Form has been created**
  - **Blurb has been written for next Community Ed catalogue about our leadership team**
- **Offer monthly professional development (with CEUs provided)**
  - **November 21 – kindergarten teacher panel – kindergarten teachers have determined**
  - **December 19– provider networking**
  - Other ideas: Curriculum Development, how to teach alphabet, general prek teaching strategies, share the why of fine motor development with ideas on how to support growth
  - Idea: survey providers to determine what other topics they may be interested in
  - Idea: Work to ensure that CEU meets home daycare criteria
- **Continue preK – K collaboration**
- 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
- Share structure and content of KAT
- 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
- Share a breakdown of skill development in kindergarten by trimester
- Outreach to family, friend and neighbor daycare
- Create a Hasting PreK Facebook page (will roll out at December networking PD)

Homework:

- Community Ed Blurb – Angie (complete)
- Capture some video for later project – Mary

- Create checklist – Mary and Angie will facilitate PreK – K group to complete
- Ensure that PD meets CEU criteria – Kari will reach out to Develop organization
- Choose dates for monthly PD – Complete
  - November 21
  - December 19
  - January 16
  - February 20
  - March 20
  - April 17
  - May 15
- Choose dates for PreK Leadership Team Meetings
  - November 28
  - January 4
  - February 27
  - April 25