

PreK Leadership Meeting 01/04/18

We began with a big question to engage our brains to the possibilities: Imagine a future where all of Hastings' children are ready for the rigors of Kindergarten as they walk through the door. What ideas do you have about what's happening in the community that makes that possible?

Our topics for the evening were:

- Revisit purpose of this group
 - How are we doing?
- Revisit our action steps articulated at the last meeting
 - What's completed?
 - What's a work in progress?
 - What's next to begin?
- Articulate tasks associated with next steps - and who is responsible?

We looked at the expectations that were shared in October:

- 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

We agreed that while we don't yet have a comprehensive plan, we are taking steps toward our ultimate goals by taking on do-able tasks. We are on track for our meetings and sharing and seeking feedback with all three reps has a solid foundation. We are especially pleased to hear about the Facebook that has been set up for the home daycare providers and are excited to hear about the conversation that is beginning and the monthly meetings among some of the non-public leaders.

In order to maintain a balance between completing tasks in the now and keeping them connected to a longer-term goal, we reviewed the questions that began the generation of our task list in October:

- 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?

Here are some of the ideas we shared:

- Parents and providers know and understand the expectations
- Community is connected (partnerships with families, library, medical practitioners, businesses)
- Openness to share and learn from each other
- Books are everywhere
- All adults in our community have ideas about how to help a preschool child grow
- Events (like turkey bingo and game night) get groups together to build relationships
- Working on building a team with each daycare/ provider organization to help ownership/ to ensure that all kids needs are met
- Marketing to family, friend and neighbor daycare with invitations to learn
- Common tool for assessment/ common expectations/ we're all looking through the same lens of kindergarten readiness expectations
- Develop/ curate resources for anyone in the community to access
- Consider enhancing screening – to catch those kiddos who aren't clearly in need of intervention/ services. Is there a way to do multiple screenings over time? Is there a way to seek anecdotal information from FFN or providers to enhance the understanding for screeners?
- Ideal: everyone owns their part – even the Walmart Greeter (for example) – and has a couple tools to engage with early learners
- Develop/ enhance partnerships with medical practitioners

Then we shifted to reviewing the action steps we generated in October (our short term goals for our work):

- Share criteria for social/ emotional readiness – develop a continuum modeled after academic standards **Not yet begun**
- Create and distribute a reasonable checklist of readiness characteristics – to be created by the preK – K collaborative **Content rough draft partially completed – rough draft to be completed in February. Share draft with Leadership team in February.**
- 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. Looking for funding options in order to revisit the publication of this resource.**
- 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 – **no responses to the form yet... need to share link again**
 - 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 (CANCELLED)
 - January 16 - Intervention referral - ECSE will facilitate
 - February 20 - Literacy with the Library – Kari will facilitate
 - March 20 –**provider networking – Angie and Kyle will facilitate**

- April 17 – **K readiness skills make and take stations – Angie, Kelli, Kim/ Shauna, Samantha will facilitate (Angie will take Literacy, Shauna/ Kim will do Social/ Emotional, Samantha will do Find Motor and Kelli will take on Math)**
- May 15 – **KAT data – K teachers will discuss; Mary will contact K teachers**
- Continue preK – K collaboration
 - Revisit purpose of this collaboration; does it make sense to diversify membership?
- 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**
- 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**
- ~~Share a breakdown of skill development in kindergarten by trimester~~ **Discussed and determined not necessary.**
- Outreach to family, friend and neighbor daycare **Carefully crafted language and ongoing discussion**
- Create a Hasting PreK Facebook page (will roll out at December networking PD) **Will discuss at a future meeting. What content? Who will maintain?**

We checked in on the homework we agreed to in November:

- Angie and Debbie – create and send post card sharing PD dates, topics and link to sign up for email notifications **Done!**
- Kari – ask if Dakota County will send info out about our PD opportunities **Done (and yes they will!)**
- Kelly, Kim and Samantha – once we have digital postcard, share with other providers **Done – and will send out again**
- Kelly, Kim and Samantha – take notes at professional development. Check in and compare then send out to your contacts **Did after November PD and will do again after January PD**
- Kari – hang up postcard in library **To be completed soon**
- Angie – share marketing message with Samantha **Done**
- Kyle and Angie will lead December PD **Rescheduled for March**

Next steps:

Feb 27 meeting

- Debrief PD (January and February)
- Review draft of checklist – Leadership team will recommend amendments
- Discuss and finalize make and take ideas for April PD
- Brainstorm how we can forge community connections (for longer term goal)
- Check in on goals

April 25 meeting

- 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

Homework:

- Sarah K – write and share with leadership team blurb for January PD
- Leadership team: share the blurb for January and February PD
- Angie, Kelli, Samantha, Shauna/ Kim bring at least 2 ideas for make and takes for your area to Feb meeting
- Mary P – reach out to K teachers for May PD
- All – continue sharing notes and inviting feedback for the Leadership team
- Kari – hang up postcard in library