

Transition to Kindergarten Committee

May 15, 2023

The regular meeting of the Transition to Kindergarten Committee was held May 15, 2023, on Zoom Meeting Platform and called to order by Kristen Peck at 3:50 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Maegan Adams, Charlene Clevenger, Donna Koser, Christina Macioci, Donna Osuch, Katje Pearson, Misty Palaia, Kristen Peck, Barbara Tedesco

Transition to Kindergarten Activities:

- **May activities**

- Transition Summary Sheets:
 - Distributed to Pre-Ks and asked for them to be returned to Donna by the end of April
 - Donna will remind programs and send to kindergarten teachers ASAP
- Parent Survey
 - All schools should send them to Donna O. at Mountain View. Donna sent a reminder.
- Little Read was ordered and will be distributed.
- City-Wide Orientation debrief
 - Fair Showing. Most schools had an average of 40 families.
 - Next year, flyer should be rephrased to say “RSVP” rather than “contact your child’s school if you have questions.” It makes it more formal than a “drop in”.
 - Redo the health video since it was Covid-specific, with new voiceover. The committee will ask Erin to shorten it.

- **June activities**

- Fire truck ride is only available to those children who are registered by June 13. The ticket for the Fire House Tour and T-Shirt can be a trip to the firehouse or a visit from the fire department to a school that invited them. The fire chief has about 500 t-shirts. Would it be helpful to have a video from the fire department?
- Collect lawn signs at the end of May/early June from the parks. Keep the signs located at the schools. Storage of lawn signs at the warehouse. As of May 1, there are 336 children registered, which includes 224 BOE pre-k students. Approximately 150 children are missing from registration. Programs to tell parents to register ASAP – let parents know they might not be able to send their child to their home school if they wait too long.
 - Can we let parents know the reason we need registration earlier than later? Maybe people don’t understand why it’s important. Maybe the K teachers can make a short video about setting up their classes for social media. Parents cannot wait until the last minute.

- Kristen to try to promote registration at Family Fun Day. It is after the end of school; however, it's better than August.
- Is there a way to find out where parents are getting stuck during the registration process? There is a way to see where parents left off during the registration.
- Realtors – ask them to let parents know that it is time to register for those who move into the city during the summer. Huntington Woods might be a great place to place information on K registration.
- Grocery stores, ER and high traffic places could maybe have registration information.
- Could we have a “traveling” registration table? It must be more than posted.
- Check to see if the library has QR code next to the computers. Can we get more information in the parks? Farmers Market is starting in June.
- Put the birthday year on our information - children born in 2018.
- Ready4K – 759 people are enrolled. Donna will do another blast about registration.
- Dine & Discuss
 - Program Quality committee does not agree that Foundations should be theme this year. They suggested Social Emotional/Executive Function discussion since kids are struggling more than ever.
 - Early November might be the best time to hold “Dine & Discuss” once teachers get through their first Parent Teacher Conference.
 - Partner groups and tasks. Brainstorm on purposeful ways to help Pre-K students to work on partnerships and small groups. Kids struggle at the beginning of the year. Purposeful cooperative tasks and assigning roles and swapping roles. It is part of the ELDS (Cooperative Play and Task Completion). How do we support young children who are unable to participate in partner activities? What kind of ideas can teachers share?
 - How do we reach the parents/home child care or other unstructured programs who do not have their children in pre-k?

Additional Information:

- Community-wide social emotional training with Peg Oliveira from Yale will be at the end of August.
- Fire Truck Ride name will be pulled on June 14th
- Next meeting September 18, 2023 at 3:45 on Zoom