

CAC CURRICULUM MEETING

MINUTES OF 11.17.15

ATTENDANCE: Committee Members Lisa K. Hopp, Ian Horn, Nadia Attia, Brock Friedman, Mary VanSlyck, Suzie Sias, Klaudia Tomlin; Trisha Shrode (Staff Liaison)

GUESTS: Peggy Ondera, U46 Early Ed Coordinator; CAC General Members Asa Gordon, Heather Mathews and Christyn Brown, and other community members including members of the U46 African American Advisory Counsel, AAPLI, Bartlett Area Moms group.

Call to order: 7:05 pm by Lisa Hopp, Co-Chair

Minutes of 10.13.15 were reviewed. Two amendments were brought forward by Committee Member Friedman. Mary VanSlyck made motion to approve with amendments, second by Ian Horn. Minutes approved with amendments.

Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)

Peggy Ondera, U46 Early Education Coordinator, spoke to the committee about updates in the Full Day Kindergarten program. A PowerPoint that goes along with Ms Ondera's presentation can be viewed at:

<https://drive.google.com/a/student.u-46.org/file/d/0Bw5aYcFhYG2yQIFPcW1qR2Qzdk9RUF1qM2g2bTBiOUUtdlhZ/view?pli=1>

- Instruction in FDK addresses two sets of Learning Standards: Illinois Learning Standards and Illinois Early Learning Standards (that include focus on social, emotional, and physical benchmarks)
- Kids come to school confident and know that they are competent. Teachers want to encourage and keep that attitude while recognizing that children grow and learn at different rates.
- KIDS ASSESSMENT – ISBE requirement for kindergarten. Aligned to state standards, the assessment is done through teacher observation
- Benefits of FDK are shown in several longitudinal studies that FDK have better assessment scores than ½ day program
- FDK is seen as a bridge (transition) between Prek and Primary grades.
- IDEAL CLASSROOM – kids actively engaged, playing and working with materials and other children
- Academic content is embedded in play activities
- Play based is not a free-for-all. It is actually very structured with academic content, but kids move and have many hands on materials. there is a balance between child-choice and structured time (e.g. reading time)
- Half Day option will still be offered. But the details of that cannot be planned until U46 has numbers of enrollment and how many choose ½. If few choose ½ day option, it is possible kids may leave at mid point, or classes are aggregated at a central location.

CAC CURRICULUM MEETING MINUTES OF 11.17.15 continued.

Q – What is timeline for approval of FDK?

A – If Board approves current Boundary Proposal, space will be available to expand FDK so that it is offered at every school. Implementation Fall 2016

Q- What is non play based instruction and what differences will there be between what we offer now and next fall?

A- less worksheets! All departments (Dual Language, ESL, Special Ed, etc) are represented on the curriculum update committee. All members are working towards less sit down, stay still activities

Q- Does FDK help lessen “summer regression”?

A- ISBE has long term studies that show FDK does help lessen loss over summer

Q – Timeline for Implementation?

A - Boundary Approval in December. Kindergarten Rally in December. Staffing set in March. Resource proposal in spring. Teachers will receive PD in summer and before school starts.

Q – are schools ready?

A – Once space is made, yes. District will be hiring teachers and setting up classrooms, not principals.

Q – How can Curriculum Committee help?

A – Ideas for increasing marketing and information for Kindergarten Rally on December 9-10 were recorded and forwarded to Ms Ondera after meeting

Public Comments: none

Other Business:

Committee member Horn raised questions and a request for information regarding Gifted Programming and curriculum development. April Wells, U46 Gifted Coordinator will be invited to next meeting.

Next meeting is December 15, 7pm.

Adjourn : Motion by Mary VanSlyck, second by Ian Horn. Motion passed.