

Kids Co. on Mercer Island
Parent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes 3/3/09 6-7pm

Attendance:

Debe Schmidt, Program Director
Parents: Lisa Sharpe (IP), Jay Johnson (IP), Jennifer Kelly (IP),
David and Sharon Schwartz (LR)

Agenda:

- 1) Introductions: name, child, their grade, etc.
- 2) Goals and purpose of group
 - a. PAGs are designed around the needs and interests of the parents involved; this is your meeting to direct as you wish
 - b. the main function of the team is to provide feedback and suggestions for the program, letting us know where you think we are excelling and where we could improve
 - c. Future means of communication: eventually quarterly meetings, maybe more frequency for now until spacing for next year is confirmed
- 3) Open Discussion: spacing challenges within the school district
 - a. MISD has ever increasing enrollment and no viable way to increase space
 - b. Licensing process difficult and lengthy when you have to start over every single year, no way to build special stability or work towards accreditation
 - c. Sharing with ERR has been a challenge for both groups
 - d. Partial roll-away program in gym allows for more enrollment which turns out wasn't all that necessary this year, but we hope for next year
 - e. Complete roll-away program not possible, need fixed dedicated space for licensing
- 4) Parent suggestions/comments:
 - a. Need to build awareness of the need for quality child care. Having it at the school is the priority
 - b. Kindergarten enrollment was due earlier this year, so that's something they shouldn't be able to use as an excuse to prolong decisions.
 - c. What can we do? Parent letters to the district, talk to the school board, article in the MI Reporter, contact Mayor's office, etc. Debe will look into scheduling something for the board agenda but we would need firm commitments from enough families promising to show up.
 - d. Parents can send individual emails to Liz Ziara asking if their child is going to have space at their school next year and if they need to go to the school board about it.
 - e. Lisa and Sharon will talk with their respective PTA presidents and see if they have any input or ideas.
 - f. MISD should have to specify in contract when they are going to change things and how they will communicate in a timely manner with Kids Co. Parents can encourage the principals to create long term plans instead of short-term fixes.

5) Potential future discussions:

- a. Homework Club
- b. Staff communication
- c. Activity schedule
 - i. Clubs
- d. Marketing
- e. Summer
- f. Food projects: concerned about health? OK if kids wait for parent approval to eat?
- g. Ideas for monthly service learning projects
- h. family involvement
 - i. Family Breakfasts and Family Nights alternate each month, what are your impressions of these events?
 - ii. Would you utilize a Parent's Night Out?
 - iii. How can we get more families more involved?