

Kids Co. Parent Advisory Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 16th, 2009 6pm

Gary Plano, Mercer Island School District Superintendent
Debe Schmidt, Kids Co. Program Director Mercer Island
Jennifer Cooke, Kids Co. Director of Child Care Operations

Parents (#children in Kids Co.):

Travis and Erin White, IP (2)	Leigh Perks and Ono Perzia, LR
Sharon and David Schwartz, LR (3)	Adrienne Finneran, WM
Niyati Krasuer, WM	Jennifer Kelly, IP
Barbara Dickhaus, LR	Julie Vanderzanden, LR
Cyrus Khoshnevisan and Michelle Hill, LR (2)	

Outlook for 2009-2010 School Year:

Island Park dedicated space in licensed classroom

West Mercer, no space

Lakeridge, dedicated space in licensed portable

Gary comments:

- This is a big jigsaw puzzle when deciding on space (Autism Spectrum program at LR, preschool program at WM, ERR program at IP, WM gifted program, Kids Co. in all three schools, etc.)
- North Mercer campus cannot be used for school purposes, but can be for daycare (other partners currently leased in these spaces)
- To the extent we can keep Kids Co. in an elementary, we will
- The district has hired professionals to help make decisions about where we need buildings and spaces, and as we look at the demographics it looks like we will need to build another school, but not necessarily an elementary
- The district views Kids Co. as a primary partner – would love for the City of Mercer Island to join us in that mission
- Likely scenario is to repurpose the North Mercer campus to become a new middle school adjacent to the Peak facility (Boys and Girls Club), could then repurpose current middle school campus (timing depends on turn-around in economy)
- Long-term solutions would have partners out of school building and into other purposed district programs, but parents prefer to have care in the school buildings
- Assumptions are that teachers aren't prepared to teach multi-age levels and that parents don't want multi-age classrooms; parents in the community want the lowest class-size possible
- Don't believe we presently have a district policy that says Kids Co. has equal footing for access to space, could be something to petition the school board for
- Now working with Dean Mac, Executive Director of Business Services, effective July 1st, no longer working with Liz Ziara

Parent Comments:

- We like having child care on campus at each school, let's build that into the business model when building new schools
- Looking for long-term solutions and stability, not short-term solutions
- Prefer onsite, afterwards can talk about activity bus
- Other programs have enough space to increase enrollment to be able to split into K-2, 3-5 age groups, something Kids Co. cannot