

Advisory Committee

11-3-11

Present-everyone here

Jason Andreasen, Margaret Eichhorn, Bryan Fentress, Michael & Krista Dooley, Shanna Craven, Karen Asa, Mike Murphy, Sarah Pinion, Cheryl Toppin, Melissa Cannon, Terri Cohen, Jason Dabroski, Katalin Kolodick, Joyce Kuethe, Marcy Shie, Virginia Utsinger, Rebecca VonBehren

Absent-all those gone

Introductions

Purpose & Tasks –

Advise the Superintendent on the recommendation to be presented to the School Board on realignment (grade configuration) for Emerson, FMI and Starry when 5th grade moves to VMS in fall of 2012.

Recommendation moving forward –

*K-2+PK(17)	K-2+JK(7)	3-4(14)
Starry	Emerson	FMI

Alignment with criteria & parameters

Worked in small groups to discuss the above proposal.

PK space determined by DHS and Department of Education (35 sq ft)

This will affect the number of students who can attend.

JK full day or half day?

Discussion regarding moving JK to full day. Will more parents be willing to consider JK if it is full day?

Would there be a benefit to having both? Is there enough interest? Will numbers support both? What options available?

Class should be at least half non-IEP students.

Discussed option of extended day.

Really like the JK option either way.

Screening is good idea for needs

JK as is: (remains as a possibility)

Pro of half days - matches attention span, bridges the gap for non preschool attenders, no change from current set up, encourages some to move onto Kindergarten, non verbal or shy kids doesn't overwhelm them, serve more students with two sections (less cost)

Concerns of half days - lack of daycare for other half of the day, some students need a full time structured experience, full day may better prepare students for Kindergarten both academically and socially, no lunch

JK full day: (remains as a possibility)

Pro of full days - Lunch is served, full day may better prepare students for Kindergarten both academically and socially, full day can provide a safe environment all day, greater opportunity to succeed in many areas, lessening the frustration/anxiety of entering a rigorous Kindergarten, better field trips and generalization of skills, also provides an

option of attending half time if desired, late start concerns, attend assemblies, more active part within the building, builds community within the school, IEP students will have more opportunity to be integrated with same peers
Concerns of full days - Tired kids, too many students requesting the program and having to screen, serve fewer students with current staff

JK extended day: (dismissed by committee)

~~Pro of extended days – nice in-between step, flexibility for social skills in afternoon, lunch served, nap time still available in late afternoon~~

~~Concerns of extended days – daycare and transportation issues still there, still serving fewer students and still not a full day creates situation of double negative~~

Additional considerations

It would be an excellent choice if the district can afford two full day programs with the option that parents could pick a half-day option

Concern is still being able to serve the highest number of kids if another teacher is not added

A meeting on Thursday, November 10 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. is not necessary

Next Step

Public Hearing November 14 – Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m.

Board Action-November 28th