

**Marshfield Public Schools
Full Day Kindergarten Sub-Committee
November 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

The Marshfield Public Schools full day Kindergarten sub-committee held its first orientation and planning meeting November 9, 2009, 5:00-6:00 P.M. at the Governor Winslow Elementary School.

The full day Kindergarten (FDK) sub-committee's objective is to complete a comprehensive feasibility study involving the advantages and disadvantages of implementing FDK in Marshfield. The result of this study will be presented to the Marshfield School Committee.

The FDK subcommittee will have several issues to address:

1. Review of the research on FDK vs. half-day Kindergarten;
2. Collect parent input;
3. Identify the finances involved with implementing FDK;
4. Visit school districts with FDK;
5. Survey parents and staff of communities with FDK;
6. Complete a Kindergarten space need study of the Marshfield Public Schools;
7. Identify any collective bargaining (contractual) issues that will need to be resolved if FDK is to be implemented.

Informal Discussion:

The subcommittee members reviewed some of the Massachusetts school districts that have implemented FDK programs. It was agreed that the work ahead will be valuable and necessary in order to make an accurate and appropriate recommendation.

The FDK subcommittee co-chairs:

Dr. Middleton K. McGoodwin, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Linda Loiselle, South River Elementary School Principal

The subcommittee, comprised of parents, teachers and administrators, was divided into three teams:

Research Team:

- Jill Leahy-Parent /GWS
- Jennifer Strazdes- Teacher/ MES
- Marie Miller- Teacher/ EWS
- Michelle Turner – Parent/ EWS
- Carol Amirault-Teacher/SRS

Survey/Public Relations Team:

- Lisa Vallier-Parent/SRS
- Allison Bayramshian-Parent/SRS
- Matt McDonough- School Committee

Visitation Team:

- Annie Violissi-Teacher/DWS
- Melissa McKinnon-Parent/DWS
- Tracy Roche-Teacher/GWS
- Elizabeth Burns-Parent/MES
- Jane Williams-Teacher/SRS

Each team will meet in December 2009 to accomplish specific tasks. The Research Team will review relevant literature. The Survey/Public Relations Team will identify ways to collect feedback from community members and parents, in addition to keeping the Marshfield community informed. The Visitation Team will identify communities that have FDK, and establish a schedule to visit their programs.

A report from each team will be presented to the full subcommittee at the next planned meeting: **January 14, 2010, South River Elementary School, 5:00 P.M.**

Timeline:

Dr. McGoodwin emphasized that a thorough feasibility study needs to be completed before the FDK subcommittee presents any recommendations to the School Committee. As a result there is no specific timeline for the subcommittee to complete their work.

It is important to keep the Marshfield community informed with the subcommittee's progress. As a result the FDK subcommittee meeting agendas and meeting minutes will be posted on the district homepage.

Closing:

Dr. McGoodwin thanked the FDK subcommittee members for volunteering to complete this important initiative. The outcome will have an important impact for both the children as well as community.

Respectfully submitted:

Annie Violissi

