

(ATTACHMENT 1) INFORMATIONAL REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE MPS/MTEA EARLY CHILDHOOD APPROPRIATE PRACTICES ADVISORY TASK FORCE

This item initiated by the Administration.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

1. In June 2012 the Board directed the Administration to work with the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA) to establish an Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force.
2. This Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force is comprised of pre-k through 3rd grade classroom teachers, early childhood supervisors from the Division of Early Childhood Education, representatives of the MTEA, early childhood experts from area colleges and universities and other appropriate community stakeholders and MPS administrators.
3. The charge of the Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force is to solicit input from educators, parents, and community stakeholders in order to make recommendations for improving the quality of early childhood education with a specific focus to discuss and make recommendations on the subject of developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education.
4. The Board directed the meetings to begin in August and present the first report in the October 2012 Board cycle.
5. Planning meetings were held in August and a verbal report was presented to Director Miller on September 19, 2012.
6. The Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force is co-chaired by Ann Terrell, district Director of Early Childhood Education and Teresa Valent, Alverno College Early Childhood Faculty.
7. The Task Force members are:
 - a. Amy Carver, MSLS Teacher
 - b. Janine Graber, Principal Victory School
 - c. Lorena Gueny, Bilingual Curriculum Specialist
 - d. Deon Haith, Mentor Teacher
 - e. Erica Harris Day, HighScope Coordinator
 - f. Erin Hermann, Head Start Education Manager
 - g. Tanya Johnson, MPS Child Care Coordinator
 - h. Diane Komberec, Maple Tree Teacher
 - i. Mia Kuether, Retired Teacher
 - j. Tiffanie Lawson, Stars Teacher
 - k. Amy Mizialko, MTEA Teaching & Learning Director
 - l. Jennifer Mueller, UW-Milwaukee School of Education
 - m. Clara New, Retired Early Childhood Faculty, WCTC
 - n. Michelle Ogorek, Special Services-ECPST
 - o. Casey O'Keefe, Cardinal Stritch Education Faculty

- p. Sandra Rosove, Longfellow Teacher
 - q. Micki Sausen, Maryland Avenue Teacher
 - r. Rita Tenorio, Retired Principal
 - s. Krissy Washington, SAGE Coordinator
8. Planning meetings were held on August 8, 2012 and August 28, 2012.
 9. The full Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force met on September 13, 2012, October 11, 2012, and November 8, 2012. Future meetings are on the second Thursday of every month.
 10. The following committees were formed at the first meeting:
 - a. Instruction/Assessment: The Instruction subcommittee is focusing on what the critical elements or components are that make up high quality developmentally appropriate instruction in early childhood. The subcommittee is discussing issues related to instruction and assessment. Examination of district policies, procedures and initiatives are being reviewed. Recommendations are being developed to ensure high quality instruction for our youngest students. The subcommittee is working to provide recommendations that are feasible in our current climate and environment. This subcommittee truly believes the classroom is the most important place and our students deserve the best early childhood experiences.
 - b. Resources: the Resources subcommittee spent a significant amount of time discussing how Milwaukee Public Schools could increase its ability to attract and retain students from an early age. This includes planning that targets children beginning at birth. We need to make parents aware that a Smart Start starts early. To increase our market share, transition activities could be held in the late summer each year to encourage families to start their children in MPS and to keep them in MPS throughout their schooling years. One possible idea is to have a Back-to-School fair that would see several agencies working together to get students ready for school. These agencies could include, but are not limited to, health and dental screenings, an immunization booth, free backpack and school supply distribution, and educational information from the public library and museum.
 - c. Environment: the Environment subcommittee has been tasked with focusing on the critical role environment plays in early childhood education. Class size, support from educational assistants, supervision before and after school, creating supportive environments for families and ensuring equity among early childhood classrooms in the district were among the issues targeted. The subcommittee also discussed the need to consider early childhood in its full range from birth to age 8, to carefully consider issues around equity and culturally relevant pedagogy and to consider differentiation for needs of teachers across levels and programs.
 - d. Professional Development: the Professional Development subcommittee is tasked with examining the professional development necessary for all stakeholders to implement best practices in early childhood for the district. The group discussed the National Association Education for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conceptual framework for Early Childhood Professional Development that promotes a high quality system for

professional practice. The framework can be a catalyst to successfully address barriers to high quality for all young children and their families. The subcommittee is working to provide recommendations for a theoretical framework for practice and professional development.

11. These subcommittees held meetings separately and made reports back to the full committee.
12. There are plans to have a separate meeting to allow for parental input.
13. The Early Childhood Appropriate Practices Advisory Task Force will continue to meet and anticipates bringing recommendations to the Board early next year in 2013.

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