

School Board Meeting:

December 13, 2010

Subject:

ADEDK Proposal

Presenters:

Pam Miller & Kim Carlson

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only. No recommended action at this time. Action will be taken at January 10, 2011 school board meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

For several years now, our district has considered the possibility of providing an all-day every day kindergarten (ADEDK) option for our students. Teachers, administrators, board members, and parents have all been engaged in conversations about all-day kindergarten. We've discussed what other districts are doing, the feasibility and sustainability in our facilities, what research says about all-day kindergarten programming, and which students need the additional learning opportunity the most. As a school board, you received formal reports about ADEDK in both 2008 and again in 2010.

After the April 2010 board report, a task force was put together to examine the ADEDK programming options for our district and to make a recommendation for implementation in the 2011-12 school year. The task force, facilitated by Pam Miller and Kim Carlson, included representatives from elementary principals, kindergarten teachers, ECFE and ECSE teachers, and KidKare staff. The task force examined what neighboring districts are providing their families, our own facility needs, programming options in an ADEDK environment, and cost considerations to offering the program.

Each time the conversation has been examined, there has been high interest from many parties involved in proposing the ADEDK opportunity in our district, however, there have been a variety of barriers in moving ahead with a proposal in the past. Now, all the pieces seem to be in place to be able to provide this opportunity as a fee-based option for parents in our communities.

A special thank you to the ADEDK Task Force members and the elementary administrators for the time, effort, and thought put into the design of this proposal.

ADEDK Task Force

Kim Carlson, Director of Community Education
Pam Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning
Michelle Robinson, Elementary Principal

Jeff Olson, Elementary Principal
 Courtney Gusel, ECSE Teacher
 Carla , ECFE Teacher
 Jackie Fautsch, ECFE Teacher
 Lori Trogstad, KidKare Supervisor
 Kimarie Tacke, Discovery Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Bonnie Skoglund, Hanover Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Debbie Holtz, Montrose Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Cherie Sanderson, Northwinds Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Lauri Hayes, Northwinds Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Denise Casey, Parkside Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
 Wendy Ely, Tatanka Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Elementary Administrators

Rick Toso, Discovery
 Jeff Olson, Hanover
 Gary Theis, Montrose
 Gail Feneis, Northwinds
 Michelle Robinson, Parkside and Discovery
 Don Metzler, Tatanka

What is the proposal?

- Provide a fee-based ADEDK option for parents at all six elementary sites
- Begin this option in the 2011-12 school year
- \$2,487 fee
- \$100 nonrefundable registration fee
- Sliding fee available for families qualifying for free/reduced price meals
- Families qualifying for reduced meals pay 75% of total fee, or \$1,865
- Families qualifying for free meals pay 50% of total fee, or \$1,244
- Free half-day programming will continue to be provided as an option

How was this fee determined?

The fee for parents was determined by examining the total annual costs of the program. Teacher salaries, ESP salaries, PE/music specialist salaries, ongoing classroom supplies, and a Community Education administrative cost were all considered in the annual costs. The selected fee must be chosen to ensure a cost neutral program.

Budget Item	FTE	Total Cost
Teacher	0.5 FTE	\$27,500.00
Supervisory ESP	1 @ 45 min	\$2,378.00
Instructional ESP	1 @ 45 min	\$2,378.00
Specialists (PE/Music/LMT)	0.164 FTE	\$9,020.00
Supplies		\$1,000.00

Total Cost	\$42,276.00
5% CE Admin Cost (Total Cost x 0.05%)	\$2,113.80

Total cost per section \$44,389.80

Recommended Fee per ADED K Student (22 full pay)	\$2,017.72
Recommended Fee per ADED K Student (18 full pay)	\$2,466.10
Recommended Fee per ADED K Student (16.5 full pay)	\$2,690.29

SAMPLE SECTION OF 22 ADEDK STUDENTS

<u>Student payment breakdown</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
16 pay @ full fee	\$2,487.00	\$39,792.00
4 pay @ free rate (50% of total fee)	\$1,243.50	\$4,974.00
2 pay @ reduced rate (75% of total fee)	\$1,865.25	\$3,730.50
		\$48,496.50

We feel the proposed fee allows for all intended expenses and the anticipated percentages of participants from each level of the payment structure.

How does this compare with our neighboring districts?

All nine of the districts sharing contiguous borders with BHM Schools were contacted regarding ADEDK programming options. All nine districts bordering our district are already providing an ADEDK option for their families. A list of the fees surrounding our district is as follows:

Osseo	\$3,843
Delano	\$2,791
Elk River	\$2,700
St. Michael-Albertville	\$2,700
Monticello	\$2,385
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	\$2,000
Maple Lake	\$1,800
Watertown-Mayer	\$1,650
Rockford	Free (<i>beginning in 2010-11</i>)
St. Francis (<i>parishoners</i>)	\$2,900
St. Francis (<i>nonparishoners</i>)	\$4,700

What are the payment options for families?

Three payment options will be provided for families. Payments will be made through the Community Education Office.

- Option 1: Pay in full by August 15 and receive a \$100 discount
- Option 2: Four installments, quarterly in August, November, February, May
- Option 3: Ten installments, monthly from August-June

What is the registration timeline?

The registration timeline for the ADEDK option will follow the regular kindergarten registration schedule we have used in the past in our district. At the end of January, families will receive all district kindergarten registration information. Pending board approval, that information will include all the ADEDK programming information. When parents attend the kindergarten registration evenings in March, they will be asked to indicate their interest level in the ADEDK program. An April 15, 2011, registration deadline has been set for in-district residents to make a commitment to the ADEDK program and to submit the \$100 registration fee. After that deadline, the elementary principals team will consider all applications and determine how many sections of half-day kindergarten and how many sections of ADEDK are warranted at each site. If a lottery is necessary, that will take place at that time. Open enrollment applications will be considered after all in-district residents have been placed.

What will the ADEDK program look like?

The ADEDK program is meant as an enrichment program, providing students additional time to master the kindergarten concepts. Like the half-day option, students will receive instruction in literacy, math, science, social studies, health, and visual arts. Additional kindergarten curriculum will not be required in the ADEDK sections, but rather, teachers will have the opportunity to extend and expand the regular kindergarten curriculum. The ADEDK students will also receive instruction in music and physical education, unlike students in the half-day option.

Once the ADEDK program is approved for BHM Schools and staff are selected through the elementary staffing process, teachers will be provided opportunities to work together to create typical schedules. A sample daily schedule of an ADEDK program in one of our neighboring districts follows:

SAMPLE SCHEDULE FROM DELANO

8:10	Ease In
8:25	Opening and Classroom Meeting
8:40	Language Arts
9:30	Phy Ed/Music
9:55	Snack
10:15	Math

10:45	Story and Get Ready for Recess
11:05	Recess
11:30	Prepare for Lunch
11:45	Lunch
12:10	Calendar
12:30	Rest
12:55	Media/Computer
1:20	Writer's Workshop
1:45	Units - Science/Health/Social Studies/Art
2:10	Activity Time
2:30	Prepare for Departure
2:45	Departure

Will the Title I Extended Day K programming continue for students identified as being at-risk?

It is our intention to continue to provide the Title I Extended Day K program at all Title I sites. This program targets the students identified as needing additional instruction in reading, math, and social skills. The instruction is targeted interventions and the class size is kept very small. This environment is helpful in aiding students to acquire the necessary skills to catch up to their peers. However, as we know, the Title I funding for our district fluctuates annually, so it is not a stable funding stream from which to rely.

What are the start-up costs to get the program going?

All elementary principals have examined current resources and budgeted needs for start-up costs of implementation. Depending on the interest at each site, one section or two sections of ADEDK may be implemented. Budget considerations were made for curriculum materials, technology expenses, furniture, and classroom supplies.

The start-up costs are one-time expenses that were not included in the fee consideration. This one-time expense would be funded from the general fund or from the Ed Jobs stimulus dollars. If one section of ADEDK were to be offered at each site, the estimated start-up cost would be \$31,771. If two sections were to be offered at Hanover, Parkside, Tatanka, and Northwinds, this total estimated cost would increase to \$72,948. Some sites may end up offering one site, while others may have enough interest for two sections. Therefore, the total start-up costs are estimated to be somewhere in that range of \$31,771-\$72,948.

What challenges are anticipated?

In speaking with area districts, two challenges seem to be common among all of our neighbors. The biggest challenges staff face is working with families who need additional payment options or working with families who are finding difficulty in making the payments for the ADEDK option at all. Neighboring staff report they work with families very closely to establish a payment plan that works for them. The second challenge reported by area districts is promoting the ADEDK option in particular to the families of students who need the ADEDK experience the most. Our neighbors report that the students who could benefit most from the ADEDK experience are not necessarily those who choose that option. Thus it is even more important we continue the Title I Extended Day K program if at all feasible within the Title I budget.

What are the next steps?

Anticipating board approval at the special meeting January 10, 2011, the next step is to develop district communication to "get the word out" to our parent community. District staff are already drafting documents to promote the ADEDK experience.

Kindergarten teachers will be provided some staff development opportunities to visit an existing ADEDK program in another district to begin to develop ideas. Staffing the ADEDK sections, once the numbers of sections have been determined, will be through the district's voluntary transfer process initially. ADEDK teachers, once placed, will be provided planning time and any other training identified as beneficial for program implementation.

Community Education staff are already examining how they will set up the payment plans with families. Once approved, they will finalize the registration and payment options and plans.

We certainly have determined that we do not yet have all the answers. For some of these unanswered questions, our motto has become "we'll learn as we go". We do, however, have most of the details worked out, and are excited to provide this opportunity for the families of BHM Schools.