

NEAH-KAH-NIE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 56

Board Work Session 4:00 PM
February 27, 2020
Neah-Kah-Nie District 56 Office Board Room

WORKSESSION NOTES

Present

Board Members

Pat Ryan, Chairman
Carol Mahoney, Vice Chair
Terry Kelly
Landon Myers (4:48pm)
Sandy Tyrer
Michele Aeder (absent)
Carrie Fletcher (absent)

District Office Staff

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent
Mark Sybouts, Business Manager
Carol Richmond, Payroll & Benefits

Present

Guests:

Misty Wharton, Superintendent of Nestucca Valley School District
Eva Manderson – NW Regional ESD Early Learning Hub
Marina Merrill & Amy Trieu – Children’s Institute

Work Session
Notes

Misty Wharton clarified with board chairman Pat Ryan what the District was interested in learning from her and that it was what Nestucca Valley School District is doing with early learning and preschool promise. Neah-Kah-Nie School District is looking at doing it or not doing it and what the options are.

Ms. Wharton is a full believer in full day preschool. She would like to have 3 and 4 year olds in preschool. She stated that you can tell who has been in early learning because of social skill interactions and the establishment of routines. She believes that if done correctly full day does not present a challenge because most of the learning at that age is done with play. Next year they will have no head start, two preschool promise classrooms if the grant application goes correctly. They will take all other three and four year olds that want to attend at no cost and use preschool promise funds, SIA funds and general funds.

Chair Ryan explained that we have had a committee working on the subject, we have sent out a questionnaire, but we still have questions when trying to decide the direction that Neah-Kah-Nie wants to take.

Eva Manderson from NWRES D explained the composition of preschool promise, the number of slots and rules. Funding for preschool promise happened about three years ago. Nestucca Valley and Tillamook School District are already participating in preschool promise. Hybrid programs have a little flexibility, she stated that parents want choices. When you talk about family needs a study from OSU says that the three counties in NWRES D area are childcare deserts.

Marina from the Children's Institute spoke about how the funding for preschool promise came out about three years ago. They are the organization that wrote the legislation for preschool promise and helped the organization that got the package for SSA passed. The Children's Institute does policy and advisory work to advocate for families. Full day care allows for more variety of enrichment. Less transitions during the day is a huge thing for kids, so full day would help with that consistency. Studies show that kids that attend preschool out perform their peers that do not attend. Children's brains are rapidly developing at an early age.

Sandy Tyrer stated that she is not sure that 3 year olds need to be in a structured environment, social emotional needs. Terry Kelly asked what a full day schedule would look like. Landon Myers had a concern about parents being able to have choices, he did not want anyone to be forced into full day.

Discussion occurred regarding children's needs and the schedule of full day care.

Alison Williams said that she supports full day, children are much more ready. Lydia Felley stated that 12 years ago Neah-Kah-Nie went to a full day kindergarten and it went well. She thinks that variety is best. Angie Douma discussed what Tillamook School District and some other districts have done.

Paul Erlebach asked if the district could have a blend of preschool promise and SIA funded preschool. The answer was no they could not be in the same classroom. You could decide not to use preschool promise money and then use SIA funds and general funds and give parents choices. Sandy had concerns about what would we do if the SIA funds went away. Paul spoke about all of the choices that the board could decide on.

Discussion occurred regarding children's needs, community needs, staffing and funding.

Chair Ryan thanked everyone for coming. Board workshop ended at 5:45 pm.