

**School Board Meeting:**

April 12, 2010

**Subject:**

ADED Kindergarten

**Presenter:**

Pam Miller

---

**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only.

**DESCRIPTION:**

In November 2008, a comprehensive report on All Day Every Day Kindergarten was reviewed by the board. That report included research information, a comparison with area districts, sample schedules, cost factors, and achievement data. As the district was reducing budgets at the time, it was determined implementing an all day every day fee-based option to our parents was not something we were ready to offer. Since that time, the topic of an all-day every day fee-based choice option for parents in our district continues to surface among board members, administrators, teachers, and parents.

Is offering an all-day every day kindergarten fee-based option the right thing to do in our district? Is it the right time to begin to offer this option? These are difficult questions to answer. As stated on page 24 of the attached document prepared by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, *Full-Day Kindergarten: Exploring an Option for Extended Learning*, "Probably the easiest answer to this question is still 'it depends.' Like most issues in education, choosing a kindergarten schedule depends on multiple factors, including the needs of the students to be served; the needs and wishes of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members; and the availability of space, teachers, funding, and other resources necessary to implementing a program successfully."

Currently at our three Title I sites, we offer an extended day kindergarten option to students identified as being at-risk during the second half of their kindergarten year. Through federal stimulus funds, we were also able to offer the same option for the first time at two other sites. It is fortunate that we are able to provide the opportunity to students identified as needing to boost skills.

The November 2008 board report included information from twelve area Minnesota school districts that were contacted to look at what kindergarten programs are offered. Some of the districts were chosen for proximity to our district, and others were chosen due to their similar demographics. Of the twelve contacted, Shakopee was the only district that did not offer an all day every day (ADED) kindergarten program as a fee-based option for parents at that time. I recently contacted an elementary principal in Shakopee to inquire as to whether they were now offering a fee-based option for parents. They still do not offer any fee-based option in the district. The only program they have is an extended day kindergarten opportunity for identified English Language Learners.

They have not considered offering a fee-based all-day option to parents due to lack of facilities to house the extra classrooms required.

The fees determined by a district for their all-day every day options vary widely. A recent survey of area metro districts collected the following data:

School District	09/10 Rates	10/11 Rates	
Westonka District	\$2,850.00	\$2,900.00	
196(Rosemount)	na	\$3,270.00	
Lakeville	\$3,190.00	\$3,190.00	
Hastings	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Forest Lake	\$2,600.00	\$2,700.00	
Bloomington	na	\$3,300.00	
District 622 (N St Paul)	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Orono	\$3,602.00	not determined	
St Michael/Albertville	\$2,500.00	\$2,700.00	* \$50 discount if paid in full at start
Farmington	\$3,567.00	not determined	
St Louis Park	na	\$3,750.00	
InverGrove Hts	\$275 per mo.	\$275 per mo.	(how many months billed? 9 or 10)
Mahtomedi	\$2,900.00	\$3,050.00	
Fridley	**paid for by voter-approved levy		

What steps would need to take place to implement an all-day every-day kindergarten option to BHM parents? The following are some suggestions to consider, but this should not be considered a comprehensive list.

1. Discuss and determine as a school board if philosophically the board agrees this is an option we need to provide to our parents. Consider hosting stakeholder focus groups to gather community and employee input on the topic.
2. Survey parents of preschool age children to determine the interest level of future kindergarteners' families.
3. Examine facility needs and feasibility for long-term sustainability. Growth and possible boundary changes are factors to be considered.
4. Determine the total cost of the program. First year costs as well as annual costs need to be examined. Some of the more apparent costs include staffing, curriculum and teacher resources, classroom supplies and furniture, additional technology (both hardware and software), and professional development for kindergarten teachers transitioning from a half-day to a full-day program. Area districts should be contacted to determine other unforeseen costs to be included.
5. If the option appears feasible, develop a time line for implementation. Any implementation will need to align with other district factors, i.e. boundary changes, additional budget reductions, etc.

I recommend reading pages 4-13, as well as pages 45-48 of the attached document for additional background information and research summaries on the topic of all-day kindergarten.