

AGENDA

ITEM

SUBJECT: Board consideration of expanding Prekindergarten to a full-day program.

RATIONALE:

During our meeting last month, we discussed the possibility of expanding our Pre-K program from a half-day to a full-day program. The estimated costs to accomplish this would be approximately \$300,000 per year. Information was shared about the possibility of offsetting district funds with the funds to be allocated via HB 4 passed during the recent legislative session.

During the 2016 TASA Midwinter Conference we learned more information about funding that might be possible via the Prekindergarten Grant Program. The legislature has allocated a total of \$118,000,000.00 for the program. Fifty-nine million dollars will be allocated for each year of the biennium. The maximum amount that will be allotted per student will be \$1500.00. If funded at the maximum amount, the grant will provide money for a maximum of 40,000 students statewide. The exact per-student funding amount will depend on the number of eligible grant applicants.

To receive the grant funding, a district must meet certain enhanced quality standards related to curriculum, teacher qualifications, academic performance and family engagement. The intention of the grant is to enhance existing Pre-K programs.

It will be our intention to apply for the grant. If awarded, the funds will be used to enhance our current prekindergarten program.

Although I believe expanding our current program to full-day would be best for the students and families, I am apprehensive to recommend this decision due the long term financial commitment that will be required to sustain the full-day program.

RECOMMENDATION:

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Sonny Cruse