

**School Board Meeting:**

January 9, 2012

**Subject:**

Montrose Childcare

**Presenter:**

Kim Carlson/ Lori Trogstad

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Since the opening of the Montrose Education Center in 2009, we have filled the building with many children and families and experienced a very positive response from the Montrose community.

We currently have ECFE, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Screening, School Readiness and Adult Basic Education/Family Literacy classes taking place in the building. We have evening and daytime classes as well as weekend and evening special events.

The original plan for this building was to lease space to an outside company or individual to open a licensed birth-to-six childcare program in the facility. Over the past year, a committee was formed and a RFP process was developed for outside organizations or individuals to send in proposals. We interviewed and reviewed four candidates and their business proposals. For various reasons none of the four were viable candidates to start a childcare center.

The need still exists in the Montrose community for a licensed childcare program and we have received many calls inquiring about the need and desire for a center in the area. As you know, Montrose also has the highest free and reduced lunch population (47%) as well as one of the highest minority populations in the District. If we open a childcare center in this facility, we would be meeting the needs of many community members.

Lori Trogstad and I have developed a plan to have Community Education open and operate the childcare center. Start up costs were noted as one of the barriers for outside organizations or individuals to open the doors and Community Education could use part of our fund balance and seek outside funding to help with start up costs.

This evening, we will share Community Education's proposal to open a childcare center in the Montrose Early Education Center.