

Port Angeles School District
216 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, Washington 98362-3023, 360.457.8575

**Minutes-Elementary Transition Team Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2006**

Attendees:

Jeanne Wolfley, Nancy Pack, Ron Jones, Holly Juskevich, Michele Haworth, Kate Wenzl, Loren Engel, LeAnn Johnson, Mary Hebert, Doug Hayman, Michelle Olsen, Amy Lawrence, Debra Roos, Gunnar Thomason, Karen Fox, Theresa Schmid, Kat Dadd, Leah Bauman, Mary Morgan, Stephanie Gochnour, Theresa Rothweiler, Julie Smith

Corrections to October 4, 2006 Meeting Minutes:

A member noted a correction to the October 4, 2006 Meeting Minutes. It is on page 2, halfway down the page, under the paragraph that begins, "Questions and discussion continued on the MAC issue." Please note that it was not the MAC program that moved to Franklin Elementary from Monroe. It was the special education classes that moved to Franklin Elementary from Monroe.

Corrections to Elementary Transition Team Report 2:

A member noted several corrections to the above-named report as follows. The first correction is on page 1, under the bullets regarding grades and sections. On Grade 2, there are 2 (not 3) sections in regular education + 1 MAC = 3 sections. The second correction is on page 2 under Conclusion. The first line should read that 'This analysis reveals that currently in grades 4 and 5, (grade 2 should not be included.) we are serving 4 sections of students.' (Please note, on page 12, under "Current units of grades by school," the numbers indicated are correct.)

Meeting Opening:

Ms. Hebert welcomed the members and thanked Ms. Wenzl for hosting the meeting. Ms. Hebert also welcomed Amy Lawrence to the meeting. Ms. Lawrence has been invited to tonight's meeting to share information with them about the preschool program at Dry Creek Elementary.

Review of Elementary Transition Team Report 2:

The members then reviewed the different sections of *Elementary Transition Team Report 2* dated October 9, 2006.

Parking Lot and Other Issues Discussion:

Ms. Hebert informed the members that discussion on 'parking lot' issues will be included in tonight's meeting. She invited the members to share and discuss any of their concerns.

During the October 9, 2006 school board meeting when both Ms. Hebert, Facilitator of the Elementary Transition Team, and Mrs. Reid, Facilitator of the Middle School Transition Team, submitted reports, (see the *Elementary Transition Team Report 2*), one of the school board members stated his/her concern that any recommendations made by either of the transition teams

should not entail additional costs to this transition process. Instead, the school board hopes that the proposed cut of \$750,000.00 will become a reality through this transition process.

Music Discussion Continued:

The members were asked to review and ask any questions of Mr. Jones about his presentation of October 4, 2006 entitled *Scheduling Band, Orchestra, Choir/Music for K-6* and included his *Staffing Summary* document as well.

A member suggested that the music lessons be lengthened but not held every day. Would the scheduling logistics allow this arrangement? Discussion followed. Mr. Jones stated that the constant contact of the music lessons would best serve the students by building and reinforcing their skills.

A member suggested using different spaces for the music lessons. Could music lessons be held in several different rooms/spaces at the same time? Discussion and explanations followed.

Reminder of Music Decision/recommendations Deadline:

The members were reminded that the decision/recommendations on music must be ready at the November 1, 2006 Elementary Transition Team meeting.

Since there were no more questions at this time, Ms. Hebert announced that the members would now take the Principal's tour that will include Ms. Lawrence's preschool class.

Principal's Tour:

Ms. Wenzl showed the members the various class/gym/cafeteria/play area/music room locations on the Dry Creek map before the members began their tour.

A member asked if preschool was being moved under Option D. She was informed that no decision was made to move preschool. (According to Option D, 2 special education classes are scheduled to be moved.)

During the tour, several members asked questions about how the new configuration under Option D would work at Dry Creek. Ms. Wenzl noted that under Option D, Dry Creek would be 1 classroom short. She also stated that she has not had time to meet with the site team to discuss the new configuration in any great detail, but hopes to do so soon.

All Day Kindergarten:

A member asked about all-day kindergarten and the need for more space. Option D provides classroom allocations for all-day kindergarten to begin as of the 2007-08 school year. A member noted that in the *Elementary Transition Team Report 1*, this was stated on page 2 under Option D Program Implications, "The district plans to provide all-day Kindergarten programs at each elementary school..."

Ms. Hebert stated that she will be giving a report on all-day kindergarten at the October 25, 2006 school board meeting.

Discussion on all-day kindergarten continued.

Changes at Hamilton Elementary under Option D:

Under Option D, 2 self contained special education classes will be moved to Hamilton Elementary. Hamilton Elementary will change from a 3 unit school to a 2 unit school.

Mr. Engel, principal of Hamilton Elementary, was then invited to discuss these changes and the issues that may arise because of them. Discussion followed. He reassured the members that Option D will 'fit' at Hamilton Elementary. Currently, there are 10 special education children being served at Hamilton Elementary. However, those numbers are very 'fluid' and change during the year. Twenty nine children from Franklin Elementary's 2 self contained special education classes are slated to move to Hamilton Elementary under Option D.

One member clarified that the children in the self contained programs are not self contained. They are mainstreamed into classrooms as determined by the I.E.P. team.

Discussion continued.

More Discussion on Various issues:

A member asked why Franklin Elementary has 2 resource rooms while the other elementary schools have only one. It was explained that Franklin Elementary gained the second resource room when Monroe closed and some of the special education children were moved from Monroe into Franklin Elementary. It was reiterated that both programs are full.

Discussion continued with regard to the logistics of moving students, staffing issues and the best way to provide services, etc. Some of the suggestions that had been discussed earlier were reiterated.

It was suggested that some of the special education teachers should be invited to the Elementary Transition Team meetings when the special education discussion continues.

The decision/recommendation on special education must be ready at the November 7, 2006 Elementary Transition Team meeting.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2006 from 6:00-8:00p.m. at Hamilton Elementary – 1822 W. 7th Street.