

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

**Minutes Elementary Transition Team
Tuesday, November 7, 2006**

Attendees:

Kate Wenzl, Jeanne Wolfley, Michele Haworth, Doug Hayman, Kathy Millar, LeAnn Johnson, Nancy Pack, Holly Juskevich, Loren Engel, Karen Fox, Michelle Olsen, Theresa Schmidt, Vicki Helwick, Leah Bauman, Darren Mills, Ron Jones, Mary Morgan, Stephanie Gochnour, Theresa Rothweiler, Nolan Duce, Julie Smith, Mary Hebert, Linda Williams, Dr. Cohn

Meeting Opening:

Ms. Hebert welcomed the members and Dr. Cohn.

Dr. Cohn offered the members his and the school board members' thanks for their time, efforts and commitment to this committee and the transition process. He emphasized that the members' role as communicators is all important and asked that they continue to share information with their colleagues. He reiterated that sharing information will lessen anxiety, and keep others informed and involved in this transition process.

According to the *Elementary Transition Team Report 1* dated September 15, 2006, "The elementary schools transition team "... is responsible for studying, planning, and implementing the changes needed to maintain high quality K-6 programs, services and operations."

Members must address several issues. Among these issues is the following. Should the special education programs remain at Franklin Elementary School and instead move the MAC – Multi-Age Classroom program, to Roosevelt Middle School? Also to be considered is the grade 6 music program. Can the district still provide the same amount of music instruction to sixth grade students after the transition? (Please see the *Elementary Transition Team Report 1* for additional matters to be considered and on which recommendations are to be made. These recommendations will be used by the school board when they make their final decision on November 27th.

Dr. Cohn asked the members if they had any questions, but they had none.

Review of 11/1/06 Meeting Minutes:

The members were asked to review the meeting minutes of November 1, 2006 and offer any feedback or corrections. No corrections were made.

Music Vote Results:

Ms. Hebert has been looking at the results of the music vote that was conducted during the November 1st meeting and has spoken to several people in the hopes of providing the most time possible for strings instruction. The district has explored the benefits of music instruction during school hours vs. music instruction given before/after school. The music program is a program that is made available to all students, and therefore must be provided during school hours.

The question of whether we can deliver a music program to sixth grade students as the music program now exists has been answered. The answer is no. Despite the fact that the members had examined all avenues, they are unable to provide a solution to the question of whether the music program could be provided to all students at no additional cost. The length of the day, beginning and dismissal times, the number of instructional hours, and transportation issues are additional factors in determining how much music is offered.

As noted above, the decision/recommendation to be made tonight is: should the two special education programs be moved from Franklin Elementary to Roosevelt Middle School, or should the MAC program be moved to the Roosevelt Middle School instead?

Tour:

Ms. Olsen then led the members on a tour of the buildings showing them the 2 resource spaces, the music room, the library, the gym, etc.

Special Education Information Reviewed:

As stated in pages 3 and 4 of the *Elementary Transition Team Report 3* dated November 13, 2006, “The team examined the emergency medical services and fire response times provided by the city of Port Angeles Fire Department and Clallam County Fire District 3. The city’s published average response time is 5 minutes, with an expectation of a 4 minute response time to Franklin Elementary School. The comparative data is the county’s average response time during the day is 5 minutes (with a longer after hours response time to RMS). The “code” transport times are 2:10 minutes from Franklin to the OMC, and 3 minutes from RMS to OMC, a 50 second difference. Response statistics were provided (by) the respective fire chiefs.

The transition team does not believe that the 50 second response time is significant. The team acknowledges that the level of services needed for each student who is medically fragile is unique and program availability within the city limits will be considered. The student’s IEP team would determine the appropriate program and location for services to meet the educational and medical needs of students receiving special education.”

Also on page 4 of the *Elementary Transition Team Report 3* under **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION** is the following information. “The transition team would like to present one recommendation that has not previously been considered by the board of directors that does have revenue implications. The team believes it is advisable and recommends that one additional portable be placed at Dry Creek Elementary School to provide flexibility and program implementation. This creates opportunities for space challenges on the west side of the district.

Special education programs will be located at Jefferson, Roosevelt and Hamilton. With the location of special education classrooms at Roosevelt and Hamilton, the transition team also recommends that an OT/PT facility be created to serve the students in programs relocated at those schools.”

Ms. Hebert then asked members to form into groups and review the maps of each school that have been created and determine placement of special education classes as well as the MAC programs, as stated above.

Discussion followed. One question asked was, when Franklin becomes a 3 unit school serving students in grades kindergarten through grade 6, where would the children who are in kindergarten and first grade now (the 2006-07 school year,) and who will not be going into the MAC program, be placed? Questions arose as to what would happen when there is a ‘bubble grade’ and the parents who have applied for the MAC program are unable to get their children enrolled into the MAC program?

A member wanted to know the concept of the MAC program. Is it based on a team concept/approach in which several teachers from the same grade level, for instance the sixth grade, work together to present a curriculum?

If the MAC program remains at Franklin Elementary School and out of attendance students make anything beyond the 3 unit school, then children will have to be placed back into their enrollment area school.

Vote Results:

A vote was then taken, and based on discussion/explanations/information, the members voted to keep the MAC program at Franklin.

Special Education Programs:

Since the members have voted to leave the MAC program at Franklin Elementary School, the next decision was where to move the special education programs from Franklin Elementary School.

Children Out of the Attendance Area:

Please see Attachment A: *Out of Attendance Area* listed below.

Attachment A:

Out of Attendance Area:

		Neighborhood Schools				
School	Number of Students in Attendance but Out of Bldg Area	Dry Creek	Fairview	Franklin	Hamilton	Jefferson
Dry Creek	66		4	6	42	14
Fairview	39	4		14	13	8
Franklin	47	11	13		13	10
Hamilton	43	23	2	14		4
Jefferson	51	24	2	12	13	

One of the members prepared information on children out of their attendance area from the October 2006 enrollment numbers which the members then reviewed. As noted above, Dry Creek Elementary School's total enrollment is 366 for the 2006-07 school year. Of that number, 66 students are out of their attendance area. 4 students in attendance at Dry Creek Elementary School are from the Fairview Elementary School enrollment area, 6 students are from the Franklin Elementary School enrollment area, 42 are from the Hamilton Elementary School enrollment area and 14 students are from the Jefferson Elementary School enrollment area. If the sixty six students were enrolled in the schools where they lived, then there would be a 'net gain' of eight students who should be enrolled in Dry Creek, if the boundaries remain as they are now.

The special education students will attend a school where services are provided and part of the out of attendance group.

Option D Feasibility:

The members were asked to meet with their principals and, looking at a map of their respective schools, determine the spaces available and the programs that would fit within the school. The groups then reported back to the committee.

Hamilton:

From Loren Engel, principal:

A) Option D fits inside our school.

B) With 2 special needs programs coming to our school we will still have one empty classroom. As discussed, with only 1 special needs program coming to our campus we will have 2 open classrooms to accommodate bubbles. Our third "bubble" option would be to convert our classroom-sized workroom into a classroom.

Dry Creek:

From Kate Wenzl, principal:

We can make plan D work at Dry Creek. A portable is needed and, as in option D, special education mild moderate programs must go to Hamilton. This would leave one room available for bubble classes, or two classrooms if preschool were to go to Hamilton as well. If there is no all-day kindergarten, that would leave Dry Creek with 3 classrooms with the portable available.

Jefferson:

From Michelle Olsen, principal:

All of my projected students, kindergarten through grade 6 will fit under plan D. I would still have room for both pre-school programs and string/band/music.

There is no room for any 'bubble classes.

Franklin:

From Nancy Pack, principal:

There is one space left over for 1 self contained special education class. Apart from that, we could use room 14 for strings as has been done in the past, which would leave 1 bubble class if needed.

Fairview:

There is enough room for K-6 special education programs. The Title 1 class is taught in one part of the library at this present time and will continue to be taught in the library.

Meeting Adjourned:

With this last information presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Elementary Transition Team meeting will be held on December 6, 2006 at the Central Services Building – 216 E. Fourth Street, from 6:00-8:00p.m.