

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

**Minutes-Elementary Transition Team  
Wednesday, September 27, 2006**

Attendees:

Jeanne Wolfley, Michele Haworth, Doug Hayman, Kathy Millar, LeAnn Johnson, Nancy Pack, Debra Roos, Holly Juskevich, Loren Engel, Gunnar Thomason, Karen Fox, Michelle Olsen, Theresa Schmid, Vicki Helwick, Sarah Jensen, Ron Jones, Mary Morgan, Stephanie Gochnour, Theresa Rothweiler, Nolan Duce, Julie Smith, Mary Hebert

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Ms. Hebert opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and announced that one of the handouts was an update to page 5 of the *Elementary Transition Team Report 1* which now lists Michele Haworth as the new Dry Creek Parent Representative. Ms. Haworth was made welcome.

Ms. Hebert requested that a school calendar be included in our meeting notebooks.

**Timeline and Meeting Time Adjustments:**

**Explanation:**

Ms. Hebert informed the members that there will be several changes to the meeting dates. Dr. Cohn has spoken with Ms. Hebert about developing a 'work plan' and has requested that there be a decision ready for report regarding music and MAC at Franklin (Multi Age Classrooms) on 11/1.

Also, a decision must be ready to be reported regarding special education on 11/8.

Because of the decision/reporting deadlines outlined above, the meeting schedules have been adjusted as listed below:

**New Meeting Dates – reached by consensus/members' vote:**

**New Date:** 10/04 meeting held at Roosevelt – Topic: special education (continued), MAC and (beginning discussion) bands/strings/music

**Not Changed:** 10/11 meeting held at Dry Creek – Topic: General Music; band/strings

**10/25 meeting canceled**

**Not Changed:** 11/1 meeting held at Hamilton – **Decision/Recommendations on Music due**

**Changed:** 11/7 meeting held at Jefferson (Tuesday) – **Decision/Recommendations on special education due**

**11/29 meeting canceled**

Since one of the topics for the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting is bands/strings, Ms. Hebert has asked Ron Jones, Music Staff Representative, to meet before October 11th with other music staff and be prepared to present information regarding such matters as how many days per week the music program runs at each school with regard to grade 6 music.

Mr. Jones suggested that the topics of discussion listed on page 6 of the *Elementary Transition Team Report 1* under Transition Time-Line be switched since the band/strings/music decision must be ready by 11/1.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the members will begin the discussion on general music at the 10/4/06 meeting and continue the discussion on music at the 10/11/06 meeting. Mr. Jones then informed the members that there may be a discussion by the music staff regarding the difference between general music and choir which involves different curriculums. He then explained the difference in the curriculums.

More discussion followed about the music program with regard to the qualifications of the general music teachers. A question arose as to whether they were able to 'cross over' and teach other areas of music education. Mr. Jones explained that the music staff will discuss this at their meeting. At the end of the discussion, Ms. Hebert asked Mr. Jones to invite any interested music staff to attend the October 4th meeting and provide their input/suggestions.

The 11/1 meeting has not been changed and will be held at Hamilton. However, because of parent conferences, the 11/8 meeting has been changed to Tuesday, 11/7 and will be held at Jefferson.

At this time, Ms. Hebert reminded the members to feel free to ask any questions about the meeting proceedings at any time. She informed them that Loren Engel, Hamilton Elementary Principal, had prepared an informational sheet of helpful terms entitled *What Did You Say? Elementary Transition Team Glossary* of special education terms. Mr. Engel then handed out this sheet.

### **Work Plan**

A work plan discussion was begun that included special education, tonight's topic. Ms. Hebert reminded/informed everyone that basically, for special education, we serve children from birth to age 21. She also stated that there was an information sheet entitled *Special Education* that was handed out. Michele Haworth has prepared this presentation.

Enlargement maps of the elementary schools were made with the locations of classrooms, including the special education classrooms. A discussion of present facilities and needed facilities for special education classrooms were discussed.

The *Special Education* document was then reviewed and discussed.

### **Franklin**

At Franklin, there is a self-contained (profound) program taught by Maria White that serves K-6, severely handicapped children – both physically and academically and has 4 paraeducators. The special education primary/intermediate program is taught by Marty Peterson and has 1 full time paraeducator and 2 part time paraeducators. This program serves multiple needs, moderately handicapped (both physically and academically) children. Facility needs: both classes have need of appropriate bathroom facilities. Both programs serve the children's occupational therapy and physical therapy needs. Although located side by side, both programs are run as separate units with separate equipment used and needed.

Michele Haworth then explained what the dots on the Franklin map represent and where the special education classes are located. She noted that currently, there are more 4th and 5th grade students. (Ms. Pack, Franklin Principal, explained that there are 'bulges' at different grades during any given enrollment year. This year there happens to be more 4th and 5th graders.)

### **Dry Creek:**

At Dry Creek, there is a preschool AM/PM program with 2 paraeducators. There is also a special education primary program with 2 paraeducators and a special education intermediate program with 2 paraeducators. Facility needs: preschool students need changing area and a bathroom. There is a special playground at Dry Creek which has been set up to meet these students' needs. After completing the preschool program, depending on their I.E.P.'s – Individual Education Plan, the children transition to kindergarten and/or to a self-contained program.

### **Jefferson:**

There was a special education program begun at Jefferson a year ago to serve preschool students with autism. Most of the children in this program require one to one assistance. This required intensive instructions program has 7 students in it who range in age from 3 to 5 or 6 years of age. The preschool class has 2 sessions. The morning class is for 3-4 year olds and meets 3 days a week. The afternoon class is for 5 year olds and meets 5 days a week.

### **Infant/Toddler Program:**

Mary Morgan of the Infant/Toddler Program informed us that her program has between 35 to 50 children enrolled depending on the year. These children are aged from birth to 3. The facilities have been set up to meet these children's special needs – including bathroom and changing facilities, etc. The decision as to who is enrolled is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the child's needs. After attending this program, some children attend preschool and some attend kindergarten, again depending on their needs.

### **Hamilton:**

Loren Engel then spoke of the special education program at Hamilton. There is an EBD (Emotional/Behavior Disorder) class. These students are both academically and behaviorally challenged. Mr. Engel explained further that Hamilton provides special education resources and involves these children in the routines of the school and the school's facilities. Most of these students have been 'mainstreamed' into Hamilton's program.

There is a Head Start program located at Hamilton which is not part of the Port Angeles School District but is a separate program with its own schedule. The Head Start program is located in 2 portables on Hamilton's school grounds and has 3 daily sessions. Special bathroom and other facilities have been built in these portables to accommodate the children. Mr. Engel explained that since these portables have been refurbished with special accommodations, they would need renovations to return them into a 'regular' classroom. He then pointed out all the classroom locations on Hamilton's map.

### **Franklin Tour:**

Ms. Pack then took the members on a tour of the building and classrooms, including the music room, MAC (multi-age classes) rooms, special education classrooms, occupational therapy/physical therapy rooms.

Ms. Pack was hopeful that all programs could remain at Franklin. However, after the tour, Ms. Pack acknowledged that Franklin would be two classrooms short as required for Option D. The Option D proposal calls for the 2 self-contained programs to move to Roosevelt.

### **Current Versus Option D Handout Reviewed**

The members then reviewed and discussed another handout entitled *Current Versus Option D*.

### **All Day Kindergarten Issue:**

A member reminded the others that they had yet to discuss the All Day Kindergarten issue and Ms. Hebert noted that this is one of the pieces that will be difficult to fit into the discussions.

### **Special Education Decisions:**

Ms. Hebert then reiterated for the members some of the decisions to be made regarding special education. Also to be decided: what programs will be moved and to what location, and what programs may be cut/saved. Another issue that will be addressed again is the equipment – what is currently available and what is needed. The members will be looking at the special education for Pre-K through grade 6 and how and where these children will be best served.

Ms. Hebert reminded the members that when the numbers were grouped, it was not determined what programs would be moved or where they would be moved. She also asked the members to remember that the intention of Option D is not to reduce staff or programs but to reduce the number of buildings being used in the district and come up with a solution that will still provide the best services to the children.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 10/4/06 from 6:00 – 8:00p.m. at Roosevelt and the members will continue to discuss special education and to introduce the music/band/strings topic. Ms. Hebert requested that the members review the classes/scheduling/programs and be prepared to discuss these topics.

### **Meeting Closing:**

The meeting was ended at 8:10p.m..