

Port Angeles School District
Elementary Transition Team
Report 5
February 12, 2007

SUMMARY

The Elementary Transition Team has given extensive consideration to the placement of special education programs. This report will outline the current structure of existing programs and provides the four options considered by the team, with identified advantages and disadvantages statements.

Recommendation: The Elementary Transition Team is recommending Option Four to the Board of Directors.

Please note that the ETT arrived at a new program label for classes previously referred to as “self contained” programs. The team recognizes the goal of all special education programs to use strategies that provide mainstream opportunities for all students and in accordance with their Individual Education Plans. We are referring to the self contained programs as Resource Room II primary and Resource Room II intermediate classes.

CURRENT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

At Dry Creek:

The pre-school class is taught by Amy Lawrence.

The Resource Room II primary (RRII primary) class is taught by Kim Davis.

The Resource Room II intermediate (RRII intermediate) class is taught by Pete Call.

At Hamilton:

The Head Start Program is managed by Head Start in Sequim; Director, Janet Anderson.

The Responsible Behavior Development Program (RBD) is taught by Barbara Lyons.

At Jefferson:

The Intensive Early Intervention Program (IEIP) is taught by Margi Ahlgren.

The pre-school class is taught by Holly Diamond.

At Franklin:

The Resource Room II (K-5) class is taught by Marty Peterson.

The primary multi-handicapped class is taught by Maria White.

There is a service room for occupational therapy, physical therapy (OT/PT) and speech.

At Roosevelt:

The middle school (grades 6-8) multi-handicapped class is taught by Kathi Fors.

Option D – Baseline for Comparison

Option D Proposal								
	Head Start Program	IEIP	(Two) pre-school classes	(Two) Resource Room II primary classes	(One) Resource Room II intermediate class	R B D	(One) primary multi-handicapped class	(One) intermediate multi-handicapped class
Dry Creek			X					
Hamilton	X			X		X	X	
Jefferson		X	X					
Franklin								
Roosevelt/Fairview				X	X			X

Pre-school is not placed in Option D.
Pre-schools are noted at their current locations.

Option One – Speed Step’s Proposal

Input provided by Kim Ortloff, president of *Speed Step*.

Speed Step’s Proposal: Option One								
	Head Start Program	IEIP	(Two) pre-school classes	(Two) Resource Room II primary classes	(One) Resource Room II intermediate class	R B D	(One) primary multi-handicapped class	(One) intermediate multi-handicapped class
Dry Creek			X	X	X			
Hamilton	X					X		
Jefferson		X	X					
Franklin				X (K-6)			X	
Roosevelt/Fairview								X (5-8)

Advantages:

1. No additional costs are necessary to provide playground and facilities accommodations for the programs at Franklin Elementary School.
2. Eliminates the necessity to move the students in the Franklin Elementary School programs to another site.
3. Franklin Elementary School is located within the city’s limits.

Disadvantages:

1. This proposal considers programs only at the Franklin Elementary School and does not address district needs of realignment, enrollment, and other special education program locations.
2. Three classroom spaces for special education would require the Multi-Age Classroom (MAC) Program to move from a central location.
3. More neighborhood students would require busing from Franklin Elementary School to the Fairview/Roosevelt campus to reduce enrollment at Franklin Elementary School by three classrooms.
4. The Resource Room II program at Franklin Elementary School would serve a wide range of handicapped conditions in one K-6 classroom.

Option Two – Special Education Staff’s Proposal

Input was provided by Linda Williams, Director of Special Education & Federal Programs, and Mary Morgan, Early Childhood Teacher at the Infant Toddler Program. One member of the team voted for this option.

Special Education Staff’s Input Proposal: Option Two								
	Head Start Program	IEIP	(Two) pre-school classes	(Two) Resource Room II primary classes	(One) Resource Room II intermediate class	R B D	(One) primary multi-handicapped class	(One) intermediate multi-handicapped class
Dry Creek			X					
Hamilton	X			X (K-3)	X (4-6)			
Jefferson		X	X					
Franklin				X (K-3)			X (K-4)	
Roosevelt/ Fairview						X		X (4-8)

Advantages:

1. Keeps district-wide programs centrally located as much as possible.
2. Avoids placing too many special education programs at a given level in 2 unit buildings. There is a concern that too many programs may limit classroom inclusion opportunities.
3. Moves as few programs as possible, so less disruption of learning for students with specials needs.
4. Maintains program placement options within city limits for medically fragile students.

Disadvantages:

1. Three classroom spaces for special education at Franklin Elementary School would require the MAC Program to move from a central location.

2. More neighborhood students in the Franklin Elementary School area would be required to move (through the boundary adjustment process) to the Fairview/Roosevelt campus.
3. Additional cost for occupational therapy and physical therapy (OT/PT) equipment will be incurred at Roosevelt.

Option Three – Principal’s Option Proposal

Input provided by Mary Hebert, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Elementary Programs, and the elementary principals.

Principals’ Option Proposal: Option Three								
	Head Start Program	IEIP	(Two) pre-school classes	(Two) Resource Room II primary classes	(One) Resource Room II intermediate class	R B D	(One) primary multi-handicapped class	(One) intermediate multi-handicapped class
Dry Creek				X				
Hamilton	X	X	X			X		
Jefferson			X				X (K-4)	
Franklin					X			
Roosevelt/ Fairview				X				X (4-8)

Advantages:

1. Roosevelt Middle School can accommodate the necessary changes to the playground and facilities.
2. Jefferson Elementary School has a playground area and facility to accommodate students in the pre-school and the multi-handicapped programs.
3. Medically fragile primary students are within city limits.
4. Hamilton Elementary School provides an early intervention center for collaboration between the Head Start Program and pre-school programs.

Disadvantages:

1. Some members expressed concern about the response time of emergency vehicles to Roosevelt Middle School for medically fragile intermediate students.
2. The classroom available for the multi-handicapped primary classroom would be too small and crowded to accommodate support personnel and instructional equipment.
3. Additional cost for occupational therapy and physical therapy (OT/PT) equipment will be incurred at Roosevelt and Hamilton.

DECISIONS REACHED ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS PLACEMENT

The members then voted on the special education programs placement. Their decision is as follows, shown under “Elementary Transition Team Members’ Proposal: Option Four.”

Elementary Transition Team Members’ Proposal: Option Four								
	Head Start Program	IEIP	(Two) pre-school classes	(Two) Resource Room II primary classes	(One) Resource Room II Intermediate class	R B D	(One) primary multi-handicapped class	(One) intermediate multi-handicapped
Dry Creek				X				
Hamilton	X		XX			X		
Jefferson		X						
Franklin					X			
Roosevelt/ Fairview				X			X	X

Advantages:

1. Roosevelt Middle School facility can accommodate the necessary changes to the playground and facilities. *Expenditure required.
2. Jefferson Elementary School has a playground area and facility to accommodate students in the Intensive Early Intervention Program (IEIP.)
3. Students can transition from the elementary multi-handicapped program into the intermediate program seamlessly as developmentally appropriate.
4. Teachers of multi-handicapped students can collaborate and coordinate instructional opportunities for students.
5. Para-educators can facilitate needs of transitions and student numbers between Resource Room special education programs at Roosevelt and Hamilton campuses.
6. Hamilton Elementary School provides an early intervention center for collaboration between the Head Start Program and pre-school programs.
7. Teachers of pre-school students can collaborate and coordinate instructional opportunities for students.
8. A reduction of one special education program at Jefferson Elementary School provides an additional space for other program delivery.
9. The three Resource Room II programs share students according to district total, with the oldest third attending the central location at Franklin Elementary School.

Disadvantages:

1. Some members expressed concern about the response time of emergency vehicles to Roosevelt for medically fragile students.
2. Additional playground facility will be needed to accommodate the multi-handicapped programs at Roosevelt.

3. Additional cost for occupational therapy and physical therapy (OT/PT) equipment will be incurred at Roosevelt and Hamilton.

MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM (MAC) PROGRAM DISCUSSION

A determination was made by the superintendent that the MAC Program will remain a district program. The members made the decision to keep the MAC Program at Franklin Elementary School. It will therefore make up the third unit of the three unit school.

The following conditions are identified for the MAC Program:

1. The MAC is a district-wide program available to students from all elementary schools.
2. MAC provides a program for students in grades one through six. This is necessary for enrollment consistency.
3. Franklin Elementary School will be designed as a two unit school K-6 with the MAC Program comprising the third section of grades one through six.
4. A committee will be set up for the purpose of reviewing the entry and exit procedures of the MAC Program.
5. The future boundary considerations for Franklin Elementary School will be determined with the MAC Program in mind. The Parent Leadership Group, which is facilitated by Mary Hebert, is responsible for the re-boundary determination. A recommendation is expected from this group in March 2007.