

Alignment Jackson Pre-K Team Meeting

April 12, 2016 12-1:30 PM

Enochs Conference Room

Members present: April May, Deloris Suel, Eileen Beazley, Joecephus Martin, LaTasha Hadley, Maggie Stevenson, Mary Ann Greene, Sara Harper, Sharon Nettles, Treshika Melvin

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Principles

#10 Agendas left at the door. How do we support the district in achieving its goals?

3. Approval of the Minutes

Joecephus moved to approve the minutes. Minutes approved.

4. Activity Calendar Update

Eileen: The calendar is based on MDE standards of Early Childhood Milestones. We may want to be clear about this moving forward. Those milestones [which we included on the back of the calendars] may not align directly with the activities on the calendar.

Where do we know that this is being distributed?

3 and 4 year old students at McWillie

Excel by 5 communities

MBB network

City of Jxn,

Jackson State

Is there something we need to do differently to make sure we're reaching more children and families in Jackson?

Anthony: We are reaching children and families outside of Jackson, too, and that's okay. Just because Eileen promotes the work of the committee on a larger scale doesn't mean the work of this committee stops.

How do we collect data?

Focused Conversation- Define the following words – what they mean to you.

Fear/Trust

Ability/Capacity

Family/Community

What's coming up for you? How did your definitions compare?

Related- not the same

Based on experience

Different- Not a value statement

Perception vs. Reality

How we show up to this work is impacted by how we define some of these things.

If we're defining things differently, how does this inform our work?

Informing
Consulting
Involving
Collaborating
Empowering

Eileen: We may not all share the same benefits of the work. That made me think of my definition of "community."

LaTasha: We need to remember, "Who are we serving?" In our case, we are leveraging community resources to support Jackson Public Schools.

Anthony: Where does the calendar lie? → Informing and Involving
The calendar is a good tool/product. How do we get the utility so that we have the data and info to measure that, be consistent with the community, JPS, etc? How do we do something bold in that space?

LaTasha: How many childcare centers and which centers? What faith-based programs? What colleges? Etc. PD opportunities associated with it, etc.

We were on the right path and then it stopped. The calendar should help facilitate what parents and teachers need to know to support their children and their development. We need to know our clientele.

Anthony: Sounds like you're expecting me to have info, and I'm expecting you to have info. We need to compile a list.

Eileen: Originally, we reached out to City of Jackson, Ms. Suel, Excel by 5, JPS Pre-K

Anthony: We had a bigger list of licensed childcare centers in Jxn for our training last year. We can send it to everyone, AND we can target certain users to track data.

Maggie: Whole point is to make sure that parents are empowered to help pre-K students be ready for K.

Eileen: Originally, calendar was designed to be one of many strategies. Not the only strategy. We had initial data, some trainings, etc. How do we take the next step?

Deloris: Feeder patterns are important. JPS should ask, "Which children are doing well on assessments?" and, "Do we have documentation telling us where they are coming from?"

Anthony: Do we need JPS to ask this question?

April: MDE was considering a universal form. Not sure if it was ever implemented.
*April will ask Dr. King about this at the next Operating Board meeting.

Deloris: In order to provide what schools in my feeder pattern want, I NEED to understand how my students are doing/what I need to do better. Include me in PD, etc.

LaTasha: What does JPS want? What does City want? We need to know this.

Deloris: What's needed is not always the same as what's required by principal.

Sharon: We're trying to start this conversation by organizing a Field Trip visit day, building relationships – between schools and childcare centers.

Anthony: Is there a way to support this and adapt it as a pilot so we could scale this up for the district? Let's ask Ms. Sargent about setting up a meeting between center directors and kindergarten teachers.

Challenge mindset- JPS has theirs and we need to check ours. If we have 20 providers supporting a feeder patten, do we know the character and quality of these centers?

LaTasha: Most of that data won't be from JPS but individual childcare centers evaluating themselves.

Anthony- How do we communicate this, and how do we do it? Do assessments exist?

April: A portfolio of student work (not just MKAS assessment) would be helpful to kindergarten teachers.

Joecephus: What about children who don't go where expected? How does portfolio get from point A to point B?

Deloris: We should have JPS' assessments, but currently we do not have access. Even with a price tag. We've asked for it.

Anthony: How do we build upon what we've done? And address this concern about quality of childcare centers? What do we have the courage and will to do?

Deloris: We need something big from this team to get people excited (like the High School Team and the Academies)

5. Next Steps

6. Celebrations