

Alignment Jackson Pre-K Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 12th, 2015, 12:00 PM

Enochs Conference Room

Members present: April May, Grace Robinson, Leigh Sargent, Linda Murray, Mahala Lowe, Mary Ann Greene, Sara Harper, Shannon Champion, Sharon Nettles, Chriscella Clay (guest)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Sadly, Ms. Holmes no longer works for JPS. April May will take on her responsibilities as co-chair of the Alignment Jackson Pre-K Team.

Also, Liz will start to take on more facilitation responsibilities moving forward.

Icebreaker Question: What are you excited about in the New Year?

II. Principle of Committee Work

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Calendar

MPB is still working on the graphics for this calendar. Liz reached out to Sheila, who said it will be done by February.

February-July 2016 should be done ASAP. They will be sent to the committee electronically so that everyone can distribute to their networks.

- In case they are distributed month-to-month, we may need to make sure the Alignment Jackson or JPS logo is on every sheet.
- Do we still want to capture feedback or distribution data online somehow? There may be a place on the Portal to capture survey/feedback on the calendar. Anthony will send out an example.

Task: Now we need to change “August 2015- Dec 2015” to 2016 month calendars and ask MPB to do graphics for them. These months should be distributed to the committee electronically as soon as they are ready.

Pre-K screening for next year starts now- Parents come in and fill out paperwork

- How are the admitted children selected? If certain data is used, how could that data be used to inform what we do?
- They are scored based on a number of (need-based) factors: education of parents, # of children, etc.

Pre-registration starts in April, and registration opens in June. These may be good times to distribute the calendars.

V. NISL Training Update

There is one more training session on Wednesday, February 10th.

Participants were split up into teams, and these teams were asked to develop different project ideas, which will be presented at the final session. A couple of examples:

- Parent Academy- find out what type of info parents are interested in and create a training tailored to them
- Social-emotional training and support for Pre-K centers and families

VI. Open Discussion

There is so much need for additional support for children's socio-emotional and academic development. We only have 5 pre-K special education classrooms throughout the city, and there are only about 10 children per class, so it's not enough to accommodate everyone. Many of the children we get come from Headstart.

Who owns this screening data for these students, and could be using this more effectively to get what we want? JPS has the data, and we could investigate which factors they measure.

Childcare center teachers are often not trained sufficiently. There used to be a program to train these teachers affordably, but not anymore.

- Hinds could maybe help fill this gap
- Childcare credential or CDA through MS State
- Support organizations like Mississippi Building Blocks
- TEACH (& WAGES) program- comes out of Alabama. MS got cut off this year.
- JPS has a teacher academy – could pre-K instructors be included in this?

In the Delta, people make more money working in a catfish factory than a childcare center. It's hard to attract well-educated candidates.

The state has guidelines/standards for 3-4 year olds, but no private entities are held accountable to a particular curriculum (they are accountable to licensure, which only addresses health and safety.)

If the parents knew what quality was, they could hold the childcare accountable. There may be an opportunity to reach parents through bootcamps. We need to inform parents about what quality childcare looks like. If centers are not using a curriculum, how do we educate and work with them, as well?

- 1.) Parents don't have enough info to do what they need to do. Where can they get this info? If we have trainings, how do we market it? (We go where they are- McDonalds, Walmart, Health Dept. etc. Need to identify other orgs.)
- 2.) Who has the info/expertise? Charts/visuals to share with parents? (Zero to three, National Association of Education of young children /NAEYC)- Task: We need to add a visual on the back of the Kindergarten Readiness calendars. Language, cognitive, motor skills, etc.

Meeting adjourned.