

Scout Island Nature Centre - December 14, 2015 - 6-7:30

Attendees: Joan Lozier, Lynn Wanless, Sue Hemphill, Frances McCoubrey – regrets = Tammi Varney

Advisory Group Meeting Dec.14, 2015

1. Nature Kindergarten Application Form
 - Changes have been made to the student application form to clarify what children need to be capable of, based on recommendations from Enid Elliot, to be eligible for the program.
 - Changed bullet about washroom facilities and process of re-evaluating child's ability to remain in the class to make it sound more welcoming.

2. Pedagogical Principles
 - This document was reformatted to use nature specific colours
 - Reword fostering development of multiple learning styles and ways of expression to incorporate Sooke paragraph

3. Joan has a meeting with Rob Taylor (HR) and Kevin Futcher (district Secretary Treasurer) on Jan.6 RE: Risk Assessment
 - Enid recommended bringing along a child to assist with identifying risk from their perspective.
 - **Action Item:** Sue will ask students from the TRU nursing program to see if there are some students who want to do a project on risk in Nature Kindergarten. Recommendations will be considered from both a nursing and risk advantage child development perspective

4. Plan for Parent Information Sessions
 - We looked through the introducing PowerPoint for session to ensure content is relevant, accessible and engaging
 - o Changes made include - Acknowledged that we are meeting on Secwepemc territory and the support from Sooke Nature K and Enid Elliot
 - o Frances – will speak to research page – obesity, language, observation skills (beginning of language) – research. (include Norwegian research)
 - o Lynn – will speak to benefits she has noticed academically with spending time outside.
 - **Action Item:** Joan will share notes for PowerPoint with Lynn, Sue and Frances
 - o Pedagogical principles – will talk about each individually
 - o Sue suggested – give concrete examples of each pedagogical principle happening so people understand

- **Action Item:** Frances – send image of home school kids working together for empathetic communities
 - **Action Item:** Sue – looking for a cattail seed head
 - **Action Item:** All – look for photos of multiple learning styles
 - o Frances will talk about – physical and mental health and learning as part of an empathetic community
 - o Sue – will talk about environment as coteacher
 - o Lynn – will talk about fostering development of multiple learning styles and ways of expression
 - o Frances – highlight briefly how well suited this is to covering the new curriculum in a play based way. (SHORT)
 - o Include Various images showing opportunities
 - o We debated what are crucial skills for students to be in this program. – Joan will make changes discussed on PowerPoint.
5. Marks responses to our questions from our last meeting
- He will look into whether surplus teaching salary can be spent on more ece time
 - The district will post second position as an ECE
 - Fuel vouchers for students who don't come by bus – not sure if that will work with union
 - Post teacher position externally? – will look into it.
 - Will kids attend Marie-Sharpe assemblies, etc.? – yes
 - Why chose Marie-Sharpe? Mark will speak to this at the meeting.
 - What about Grade 1? Can't promise students will get into catchment school the following year.
 - Can we reserve certain number of spots for non Marie-Sharpe students? – no.
 - Are we looking for external funding? – through Anne Burrill
6. Details for Parent Meeting
- Sue will make classroom space available for parents to look at.
 - Sue will put out Nature Kids brochures for parents who want to get their kids involved in nature right now.
7. Develop a Local Specialist Assoc & EEPSA (Frances)
- Group agreed to officially become an LSA associated with EEPSA. The focus this year will be on getting the Nature Kindergarten running and supporting the Cariboo Chilcotin Outdoor Classrooms project supported by the Williams Lake Field Naturalist and Scout Island Nature Centre

President = Frances

Secretary = Frances

Treasurer = Frances – this will be reassigned at the next meeting

Next meeting: Wednesday, Feb.3?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!!