

**Academic Affairs**  
**Minutes**  
**June 6, 2018**

In attendance: James Blakeslee, Melissa Volcskai, Joy Smith, David Hauser, Larry Stern, Susan Maloney, Kristine Betz, Michele Kirsch, Jan Wentz, Rita Spinalli, David Bradley, Tim Tkach

- I.) Kindergarten Readiness Assessment/Evaluation Instrument
- a.) Presentation by Mr. Sebelin and Teachers
- Handout given
  - Review of handout
  - Kindergarten teachers are the administrators of the test
    - Takes approximately 45 minutes
  - Notes are made on the tests in regards to the various tasks being performed
    - Some topics are: identifying Emotions, Sequencing, Dressing Skills, Listening Skills, Conflict Resolution, Rhyming, Patterns, Shapes, and Identifying Numbers
  - Screener is very important to assess the student
    - Helps the teacher understand what the students' needs are coming into the kindergarten classes and what potential services they may need
  - Suggested that after testing there be resources available to hand out to parents whose child make have a certain skill to work on; scissors, manipulatives, etc.
  - Pre K will already know the information on the assessment and will have a head start for Kindergarten
  - Mr. Stern asked if we could look into how we can reach the children who are at home and not attending any preschool of any kind.
    - Talked about possible parent classes to help explain the necessary skills for Kindergarten and give examples of how to teach the child
    - After the testing is completed, give parents related materials and resources to help their child with the skills that they need to practice
    - Have a Kindergarten checklist posted on the website
    - Mr. Bradley asked if we have a history of data on the incoming Kindergarten classes to know what skills children seem to be deficient in
      - Where is the assessments for the children from previous years?
    - The kindergarten assessment is housed in the child's cumulative folder which is in the offices of the building they attend
  - It was explained that this is just a starting point for the teachers, this test was just compiled and the staff is hoping to take it to the board for approval and use it going forward for future kindergarten testing.
  - The teachers would like to use it and refine it this year
  - This is an assessment of skills to get a picture of the child
  - Mr. Bradley suggested posting the assessment so parents would know what skills the child needed

- Mrs. Wentz felt this was not a good idea, she felt that parents might teach to the test- the teachers need to assess what the child knows not what they can memorize. It was decided that we will not be posting the assessment on our web page.
- Mr. Tkach thanked the teachers for their time and effort that was put into this assessment.

II.) FOSS

- a.) Reviewed the Science Curriculum Revisions for the 2018-2019 School Year (handout)
  - FOSS curriculum is more hands on, inquiry based with a mastery of concepts than previous science curriculum
  - We are looking to formally adopt FOSS at the June Board Meeting
  - The FOSS kits are on a 2/3-year cycle before you need to purchase any additional consumable items.
    - Possible that the items could be purchased from a different vendor
  - Mrs. Wentz stated that she used the FOSS Curriculum this year and found it to be very good. Students were able to do the hands on part then read related articles.
  - Mr. Bradley asked if we were looking to make this change in the curriculum, and asked why the administration staff, teachers and board members are not creating the curriculum.
  - The process was explained that we research and pilot a new curriculum first before any purchase is made, making sure that it is aligned to standards

III.) Students in Placement Outside the District

- a.) Reviewed the handout
- b.) Placements outside the district depend on student's needs
- c.) The difference between LAVA and cyber schools was also briefly explained.

IV.) Good of the Order

- a.) Nothing at this time

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 5:45 p.m.  
Administration Building**