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Board Update: Pre-K

Presented to the Board of Education
March 4, 2025

Background

Haldane has been awarded funding to support a UPK program

- The funding is currently set at $232,000
- This covers a five-hour program
- This assumes the inclusion of 43 students

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Implementation

A UPK program can be offered in two ways

- As Part of Education Law 3602-e, districts receiving UPK funding must set aside a minimum 10% for collaboration with eligible agencies.
- The remaining 90% may be used for an in district program or further collaboration with eligible agencies.
- In either model, admission is through a blind lottery.

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Feasibility of a District Run Program

With the unexpectedly small Kindergarten class a path towards a district program opened for the 25-26 school year.

- We will have a classroom space available.
- Another small Kindergarten cohort makes teaching staff available through shifts rather than a budget increase.
- We are able to shift an aide to support the program.

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Steps Taken

Request for Proposal

- An RFP was issued in January seeking seats for 2-25 students to meet our state mandate.
- For a variety of reasons, the eligible agencies have been hesitant to submit applications
  - Certification requirements
  - OCFS building requirements
  - Compensation rates

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Follow Up

Continued conversation with local agencies

- We have one application from Stepping Stones
  - They are considering partnering with us to offer 4 seats in their Pre-K program.
  - This means collaboration on curriculum, professional development, screening, assessment, transition, and CPSE support.
- A partnership with Stepping Stones supports Haldane families by having an option for Pre-K with before and after school care.

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Next Steps

Program Setup

- We are in full swing of setting up our program
  - Mrs. Moeller will be teaching our class. She has had the opportunity to visit local programs and meet with teachers and principals.
  - Curricular materials are being reviewed.
    - Eureka^2 has a Pre-K program that leads right into our elementary program
    - ELA, Science, SS, and SEL are being reviewed for best fit.

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Next Steps

Program Setup

- Classroom materials have been put into the budget requests. With two sections of Kindergarten some materials can be shifted over, but others are new needs.
- Playground update
  - The firetruck has been welded and repaired a few times
  - Existing equipment is rated age 5-12
  - We are looking at equipment rated 2-12

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Next Steps

Registration

- Registration for Pre-K is currently open. We have 13 registrations.
- Families will be indicating their first and second choice prior to the lottery if there is a CBO.
- Registration closes March 31.
- The Lottery will be held in early April and families notified of their child's placement by April 11.

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Questions & Answers

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