



MEETING NOTES

Region 35 Action Council Meeting

Location: Ottawa, IL

Date & Time: 01/12/2023 @ 1:00pm to 2:01pm

Council Members present: Denise Garthe, Kira Lee Pfeffinger, Rich Faivre, Sara Markey, Lynn Sheedy, Derek Kilmartin

Council Members absent: Melissa Mital, Jackie Blackburn

1:00pm Welcome and Introduction-Consent to Record (3min)

Notes: All in attendance approved

1:13pm Local Community Collaborations PowerPoint (6min)

Notes: What exactly is a collaboration? Leading into the issue of Birth to Illinois: Region 35 does not have an Early Childhood Collaboration.

1:19pm Discussion and Reflection (22min)

Notes:

What is working and what is not working? How do you feel as school officials not having someone to collaborate with? What does and does not work to engage in parents?

Action Member council reflections:

- “There is a local collaboration however it is more so a sharing or updating of information.”
- “As far as a working group that is setting goals and planning for them, I have not experienced this in the group I am thinking of.”
- “There are no formal collaborations or group that meets.”
- “How much of what we are seeing is more so an issue impacted from parenting, technology, and so on more so than Covid?”
- “The schools are currently working towards preschool for all, and the administration side and application side is taking up a lot of time.”
- “We do have Grand Ridge beginning the process of setting up Preschool for all.”
- “The planning, getting it into a calendar, and then making time for it are a task in themselves.”
- “There is no organization out there that is formal and gathers together to say, what are we going to do.”



- “One of the benefits of adding preschools allows us to move children from the daycare to the actual preschool.”
- “Can we make a difference through parenting classes to impact learning in young children?”
- “We at schools and centers cannot turn our backs on children which are in involved in challenging situations.”
- “There is an overwhelming amount of responsibility falling on the school. Who is the village for these families now? It seems like it is just the schools.”

1:41pm Introduced a topic piece from Family Council. “What is missing that is not engaging parents?” (20min)

Notes:

- “Event times are still based on a typical 9am-5pm job whereas this is not necessarily the norm today.”
- “It is my understanding the reports of child abuse went down during covid because children were not in the school system or around other adults or children. There could be validity to it, but there are factors with all of this. There is lacking in all areas we are discussing.”
- “The child’s number one educator is the parent. Trying to get them to meetings and to follow through at home is hard.”
- “Parents have expressed, not knowing what to do or how to follow through at home. They are at their wits end in some cases.”
- “Teacher’s biggest piece since Covid and students returning to school is behavioral issues and the teachers having a collaboration would help a lot.”
- “When it comes to not knowing, I feel what Covid taught everyone is that they must shelter in place. They did not get that break which could have raised the frustrations of not knowing what to do. Teachers were not able to be there as much to give advice.”

2:01pm Wrap up and adjournment-Schedule Future meetings (5min)

Notes:

- After the next Family Council meeting, Char suggested sharing information about what is missing to engage families from their perspective.
- Misty added the Facebook link to the chat forum for the Action Council.
- All Action Council members adhered to joining our Newsletter verbally and within the chat box.