

NOTES



Region 32 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: March 27, 2023, 6:00-7:45pm

Members Present: Hailey Siegel, Alison Chandler, Sarah Gowler, Tahlia Guimond, Teage Drinnon, Amy Kring, Kasira Potts, Natasha Ashford, Ashley Chappell, Cheme Williams, Emily Rodriguez, Ali Denault

Members Absent: Amber Bramer, Brenda Mohr, Sarissa Johnson, Jazmine Mancha, Coen Clark, Danielle Norton, Laura Ziegler

6:05: Welcome, Permission to Record

- Kennilyn welcomed and permission to record was granted.
- Kennilyn asked members about a dream family vacation as an icebreaker.

6:10: Community Agreements Review

- Kennilyn reminded the members of our Community Agreement.

6:17: Review ECEC Workforce

- Kennilyn reviewed last month's Regional Scan questions on ECEC Workforce and the answers on the Google document and asked if there were additional comments needed.
- The Family Council had no additional comments.

6:23: Regional Scan: Parent/Family Engagement

- Kennilyn told the Council this section is where we want to hear "Family voice."
- Liz stated, "Data is the what and your voice/experience is the why."
- Regional Scan Questions for Parent/Family Engagement:
 - What has been your greatest challenge and/or success in ECEC in the area?
 - Challenges: hours of availability compared to working hours, area of day care availability is limited (Iroquois), qualifications of staff in day care, finding PFA spot for a child who was behind in developmental screenings, affordability, transportation, time of pre-K, and lack of speech therapy.
 - Success: EI therapists provided through the school district have been phenomenal, pre-K teachers in CUSD #4, finding in-home day care, Early Childhood staff has longevity and familiarity with families in the community as well as Spanish/English speaking educator (Iroquois).
 - What sacrifices and/or decisions were made surrounding these issues?

- Chose a lower-paying job because of the location of child care that was available, transportation, relying on other people to care for the child, commute times are long for both parent and child, and the cost of day care is a lot, family time together (split shift for both parents). “I don’t work. I have to stay home, for there is no way possible for my family to afford care for children not in school.”
 - Has anything helped make ECEC programs and services work for your family?
 - Loving/understanding pre-K staff at CUSD #4, home child care, finding other families to help share child care and transportation, and being able to choose morning or afternoon pre-K.
 - What services do you and your family need most?
 - Transportation that is provided for pre-K, acceptable travel time on bus (transportation0, before and after care, evening care/non-traditional hours, part-time care, infant care- high quality is a bonus, and quality therapy options.
 - Quotes: Family Voice
 - Kennilyn reviewed quotes that were given in the focus groups, past Council meetings, and interviews. The Council voted to keep quotes in the Regional Scan.

7:20: Review Regional Scan Narrative

- Liz updated the Family Council on the Regional Scan by sharing the letter from the Regional Leadership and Regional Demographic sections.
- Liz read the Federal Poverty Level call-out box example to the Council. It was agreed it should stay in the Scan.
 - The council asked to see more data across the board, including data about the middle class and how they are affected.
 - “As a middle-class parent, I do not qualify for CCAP and cannot afford a child care center due to the costs of commuting to the center openings.” (Iroquois parent)
 - One member worries that the “focus is on low-income and that funds will be sent their way when other districts will not receive the same funding based on their demographics.”
 - “My only concern is that there is one more report that throws money at low income and

that means it'll go to Kankakee School District and maybe Bradley School District.”

- It was asked why we do not have data on middle-class families.
 - How can we find a better way to obtain data for all populations no matter eligibility or criteria?

7:45: Q & A

- Kennilyn asked the Council to think about recommendations we would like to make in our Regional Scan and bring them to the next meeting.

7:50: Adjourn

Next Meetings: April 17, 2023
6:00 – 7:45 pm
KCC NEC & Virtual