

# Putney Central School Kindergarten Committee

October 6, 2004

## Minutes

Committee members present: Cami Elliott-Knaggs, Meredith Wade, Holly Hammand, Sarah Baker, Amelia Stone and Kim Friedman and Guest: Francis Holland

### Agenda

- I. Survey Results discussion - Gaps in data collection identified
  - A. More survey returns needed from families with younger children - Cami and Amelia will mail out surveys to Putney families with kids 0-5 with self-addressed stamped envelopes (eliminate 4b from that survey)
- II. Literature Review
  - A. Holly's review focused on the effectiveness of full day K vs. half day K. Areas to explore include: class size and the curriculum
  - B. Beckie's review also reviewed on the effectiveness of full day K. Areas to explore include: class size and the academic benefit of full day K. The summary is available on line.
- III. Meredith presented a "Survey of Area Schools" – There is a range of kindergarten configurations: half day, extended day, full day and a combination of half day and full day program in the area. Other schools to be added to the list include: St. Michael's – Full day; Marlboro (Cami will contact school for details); Deerfield Valley – Full day.
- IV. Francis Holland, who teaches kindergarten in Brattleboro, reported to the group. All kindergarten classes in Brattleboro Town have more than 20 students with one teacher and one para. Francis talked about the impact of larger class size. It takes a long time to do routines such as lining up, washing hands, etc. as well as to teach academics; there is less teacher/student contact. High-risk students demand more time. Too much time is spent giving directions, redirecting, and repeating directions to individuals. There are fewer opportunities for children to take a turn, increased noise levels, and it's difficult to provide gross motor activities in the classroom. There are more classroom management issues; more prep time for activities and the budget has not kept up with increased numbers. There is less time to connect with parents. Full day not necessarily the right thing for all children; for some the afternoon is a long session. If PCS offered a full day, 20 too big. A range from 15 or 16 is worth considering. Transportation for half day/extended day extremely helpful.
- V. Next Steps –
  - A. Community Forum to be discussed at next meeting
  - B. Direct mail to pre-K families and other ways to reach them (focus group?)
  - C. Other Data Collection (see grid) Impact on ECE's
  - D. Involvement of ECE's in developing recommendations
  - E. Can public schools offer a different program for kids on free/reduced lunch?
  - F. Call Day Care providers and ask them how a full day K at PCS will impact their program. Sarah will make those phone calls.

NEXT MEETING: Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 at PCS.

Questions:

Would having a full day kindergarten increase enrollment (In other words, draw more families in who may need a full day program and opt for independent/private school placement)?