

To: Board of Education
From: Jack Barshinger, Superintendent
Date: August 23, 2011
Subject: Kindergarten Program

Agenda Item: Kindergarten Program

Item Type: Information and possible Action

Recommendation/Abstract: I recommend the Board of Education consider Alternative 5 for adjustments to the kindergarten program.

Background Information: Changes to the District Kindergarten program were made in May due to the elimination of the District Elementary Spanish Program. Administration reviewed scheduling conflicts and adjusted the remaining specials (music, art and physical education) and adjusted the length of the kindergarten day to meet contractual obligations. Those changes resulted in the adjustment of the kindergarten schedule by 15 minutes.

At the July 26th Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education requested that the administration review changes to the kindergarten program and provide alternatives.

We have reviewed two concerns, the length and the delivery of the kindergarten program. First, kindergarten classes are presently scheduled from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m. This is 15 minutes shorter than last year. Second, we will integrate art, music and physical education into the kindergarten curriculum using the expertise of the classroom teachers. Last year, kindergarten students received instruction in art, music, and p.e. from building specialists.

In reviewing changes to the kindergarten program, administration has identified the following alternatives.

Alternative 1: return to 9:00-11:45 a.m. and 12:45-3:30 p.m. Classified staff would be hired to supervise kindergarten for 15 minutes. **Budget Information:** \$5,100

Alternative 2: keep our current kindergarten time and program, and provide an additional 15 minutes of lunch supervision for After School Enrichment Program(ASEP). **Budget Information:** Cost neutral: \$5,100 supervision charged to ASEP participants.

Alternative 3: return to 9:00-11:45 a.m. and 12:45-3:30 p.m. Part-time certified staff would be hired to travel between buildings to provide art, music and p.e. using specialists. **Budget Information:** \$51,000

Alternative 4: return to 9:00-11:45 a.m. and 12:45-3:30 p.m. LRC becomes the fifth special, replacing Spanish. This will provide specials for kindergarten, reduce programming for all 1st-5th grade students, and require schedule changes for every K-5 teacher. **Budget Information:** Cost neutral

Alternative 5: keep our current kindergarten time and program, and eliminate specialists teaching art, music, and p.e. from ASEP. Non-certified staff will be used to provide additional supervision to ASEP students during break between am and pm kindergarten. **Budget Information:** \$10,200 charged to ASEP participants