



April 24, 2009

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Daniel A. Nerad, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Update – 4K

The 4K steering committee had four meetings reviewing prior history, learning from other districts, and looking at what needs to be accomplished prior to start up. At the last meeting we came to consensus on a time-line. As a result, **the steering committee is recommending that the Board of Education make a commitment in May to begin 4K no later than fall, 2010.**

The next 4K meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 11, from 9:30 to 11:30, site to be determined. At this meeting we will divide into working subcommittees focused around the Tasks Ahead piece developed in previous meetings. Attached is a list of the tasks.

The steering committee is a terrific group of individuals to work with and there is no lack of enthusiasm and passion for this initiative.

Timeline for Implementation of 4K

	Start in September 2009	Start in September 2010
April 2009	Decide on model Cost per pupil Identify sites Determine what we will arrange with nonaccredited settings Funding	
May 2009	Decision to be made by the 2 nd week in May – vote by the Board of Education Identify sites during the first week of May (May 4-11, 2009) Conditional on outcome with union	
June 2009	Registration and contracts Hire teachers Notification – getting word out to parents and community Order any additional materials	Subcommittee decides details on model and curriculum
July 2009	Continue hiring and ordering materials Professional development starts	
August 2009	Professional development continues	Full group review of subcommittee recommendations
September 2009	START	
October 2009		Finalize Board of Education presentation
November 2009		Board of Education approval
December 2009		
January 2010		More detailed planning in small groups
February 2010		
March 2010		Registration for 4 and 5-year olds
April 2010		Begin posting and hiring during mid-April

May 2010		Contracts
June 2010		Professional development Site discussion Order materials
July 2010		
August 2010		
September 2010		START

Advantages to starting 4K in September 2009

- Stimulus package.
- Momentum and enthusiasm.
- Serving children earlier.
- Special Education – meet needs, especially inclusive experiences.
- Don't risk losing ground.
- Community wants it.
- Closing achievement gap.
- Alignment with MMSD Strategic Plan.
- Shows Madison's commitment to early childhood – strengthening early childhood community.
- Bring MMSD in line with rest of state.

Challenges to starting 4K in September 2009

- Negotiating the 4K model:
 - Family day care.
 - Union.
 - District.
 - Child care community.
- Determine per pupil cost.
- Diversity in sites (over time).
- Funding source (rolling up to a full reimbursement).
- Identify curriculum (Creative Curriculum or Standards Based).
- Just accredited sites or bring non-accredited in to increase quality (set some criteria – ECCSRS)
- Transporting.
- Size of classroom - # of children – reimbursement.
- 3-year olds in 4K.

4K Implementation
Comments on Timelines, Challenges and Advantages with a 2009 startup

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – training for providers before opening/starting. • Stimulus funds can affect state aid. • Do it quickly – concern about building trust. • Community sites – already enrolled. Would have to reconfigure. • Think about 2009 as a startup year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Realize it's not perfect ○ Work out details over the year • Build in flexibility. • Not sure about impact on current sites – impact on infants and toddlers and 3-year olds. • Not easy to move children from existing non-accredited sites. • Other districts that moved to quickly found it hurt collaborative arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would work for children in accredited sites and not in any site. • Important to enhance existing sites. • Remind families this is “voluntary” program. • Get it solid out of the gate. • How do we know the community wants 4K? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus from meeting • Seek Board of Education commitment to start no later than September 2010.
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