

ELC PRESCHOOL SUMMARY

You are all aware that the Park District had an exodus of ELC preschool staff after the 2017/18 school year. John, Audrey, and Nicolette did an exceptional job securing new, extremely qualified, energetic, and creative staff. We continue to receive positive comments from parents regarding the new staff and fresh ideas.

The staff change created the opportunity to evaluate a program of declining enrollment, due to a number of factors.

In initial meetings, we encouraged new teachers to re-establish contact with Summit Hill School District 161. The intended purpose of ELC is to prepare participants' entry into SHSD 161, and access professional support for student assessment.

Pam Kohlbacher, longtime friend of the District, and previous ELC Director, worked with new staff to ensure curriculum is now on track. Audrey Marcquenski met with John Snipes, Director of Curriculum, SHSD 161, to discuss program direction prior to the start of the current year. We hope to continue this relationship to remain current with the latest innovations, and ELC staff will schedule a meeting with Mr. Snipes in the near future.

I met with ELC staff and John Keenan on October 22nd. Teachers identified two areas of concern and made recommendations.

1. The current program in place over the last 40 years has not changed in time or scope. The 4-year old children attend ELC on Monday/Wednesday/Friday for three hours per class.
The 3-year old children attend on Tuesday & Thursday for two hours per class.
2. With changes in curriculum at SHSD 161, the primarily social ELC program does not allow enough time to introduce and prepare students for entrance in SHSD.
3. Add an optional third day option for the 3-year old program, and an optional fourth day for the 4-year old program.

Teachers recommended surveying participants to determine if there was support of added time and days, enabling expanded program opportunities.

I have attached the results of this survey that indicate support for an optional additional day.

I have also attached a sample of emails received by current staff in support of the new program.

I look forward to bringing more information on program innovation at coming meetings.

John is working with staff to build the expanded program and budget for the 2019/20 school year.

The updated programs will be available for registration in February. As soon as complete current participants will be informed of the options by ELC staff.