

**DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

<https://www.iowacityschools.org/domain/26>

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019

Attendees represented entities including Iowa City Community School District, ICCSD Foundation, ICCSD School Board, and ICCSD schools.

Principal Welcome and Information

The 6th grade students opened the meeting at Weber Elementary by singing for the attendees, including some fantastic singing by the student soloists. Principal Lori Kasperek then welcomed the attendees. The Weber motto is “Dolphins dream big”--we dream it, we believe it, we achieve it. Weber is a diverse community. They are working on bringing the community together. Weber is a growing school and has about 470 students. Principal Kasperek has loved her first year at Weber.

DPO Co-President, Miriam Timmer-Hackert stated the draft of the by-laws would be brought back next year [fall of 2019]. The DPO is still looking for people to join the board and to contact any member if interested via email or facebook page or in person. DPO Co-President, Eric Johnson encouraged everyone to consider a leadership role and thanked board members leaving for a fantastic job.

DPO Past-Co-President Tara Sterba thanked those present. DPO awarded eight scholarships to local students (!!!) and had one hundred honorees.

DPO Past-Co-President Brad Kelly said it has been an amazing four years, he is so appreciative for everyone, and thank you.

Board & Administration Report

Shawn Eyestone was the only board member present. He stated.

- Board members [Ruthina Malone, Shawn Eyestone, Phil Hemingway, Paul Roesler] represented ICCSD at the Joint Entities meeting where Johnson County elected officials get together. The April Joint Entities meeting was at the ICCSD office [minutes linked at <https://www.iowacityschools.org/cms/lib/IA01903939/Centricity/Domain/3396/4.15.19%20Joint%20Entities%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf>]. Topics presented included an update on the Community ID Program and mobile home parks. They also received an update on property assessments.
- ICCSD's Education Committee met and got an update on Ethnic Studies and Reading Supports. [link to agenda with attachments at <http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BAVS6M62E555>]
- There was a board retreat, which was “much shorter” than originally planned for. Originally the board was going to discuss mission and vision but “staff asked for a voice” into the mission so the board/district is “reaching out.” The board discussed calendar

issues and professional development updates, which may change the year after next.
[The link to the meeting with attachments is here

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BADP9W5ACFC2.>]

- At the board meeting, the board heard from the School Safety Advisory Committee. Board did not support for a school resource officer; however, the board was supportive of much of the other ideas. See [https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/BBCQFS63A92D/\\$file/Safety%20committee%20recommendations%204-15-19%20updated.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/BBCQFS63A92D/$file/Safety%20committee%20recommendations%204-15-19%20updated.pdf).
- At the board meeting, the board voted on the budget reduction; however, Shawn hopes for a 1- 2 year reduction and then bring back what was lost and add more since before what was cut didn't get added back.
- At the board work session, the board talked about 1) solar power and solar power curriculum, 2) going for a PERL tax [link to proposed resolution to put before voters at [https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/BATSN66BA48D/\\$file/PERL_Resolution%20Example.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/BATSN66BA48D/$file/PERL_Resolution%20Example.pdf), and 3) graduation dates (below). [See meeting agenda and attachments at <http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BB676U5DE054.>]
 - May 22, 2019 – Transition Services Center 11:00 AM at the Education Services Center
 - May 24, 2019 – West High School 7:00 PM at Carver Hawkeye Arena
 - May 25, 2019 – Liberty High School 1:00 PM at Liberty High School
 - May 25, 2019 – City High School 7:00 PM at Carver Hawkeye Arena
 - May 28, 2019 – Tate High School 7:00 pm at The Englert Theater

A parent asked Shawn whether the board had confirmed with the Iowa Department of Education that a PERL could pay for preschool. Shawn answered “No.” The same parent asked whether the district would seek a PERL since it would probably get SAVE tax monies. Shawn answered “Yes.” [ICCSD’s board has since decided not to pursue a PERL tax at this coming election but to consider it later.]

Amy Koretemeyer, Assistant Superintendent, said

- there are multiple assessments and referenced a report from Diane Schumacher [found at [https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/B8NSLP6BDD44/\\$file/2018-2019%20Assessment%20Overview.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/files/B8NSLP6BDD44/$file/2018-2019%20Assessment%20Overview.pdf) at 2/26/29 board meeting <http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=B8NSJ56BA697.>]
- the Student Climate Survey is through the University of Iowa and ICCSD gets detailed information.
- there is also a Conditions of Learning survey that ICCSD does as part of ESSA [Every Student Succeeds Act].
- there are new Iowa Assessments.
- they are also using universal screenings.
- they understand that time to do assessments means time away from learning.
- Attendance zone changes mean some shifting of staff.

A parent asked if the construction of Grant was now on schedule. Amy replied “Yes.”

ICCSA Foundation Report

Susan Brennan of ICCSD Foundation thanked everyone and stated:

- The Foundation is in budgeting mode.
- “Dining out” earned over \$12,000 in the fall and the amount should be more this year.
- The University of Iowa Community Credit Union “Give & Grow Initiative” raised \$13,805, which will be matched so they were close to their \$15,000 goal..
- There were \$75,000 in Excellence Fund grants and they had 28 applications for around \$200,000.
 - This year high schools got some grants.
- The office held a “silver Salute Celebration” to honor 107 retirees and 19 25 year retirees.
- There are only three schools left for School of the Wild, which is a very successful program and is nationally recognized.
- The classroom cash program through Hills Bank directly impacts programs like CASL.
- There is a donor event tomorrow with around 220 attending, which is the Foundation’s time to report back to the community.

The PTA president at Hoover said that there will be a Hooverbration on May 17th to celebrate the past and present of Hoover.

Eric Johnson will post a video of last month’s DPO meeting concerning playground ADA requirements, safety, and inclusiveness. Miriam mentioned last month’s presenters could go to PTO meetings.

Jenni Mettemeyer, DPO Co-Secretary stated ICCSD’s playground committee is working on ADA and Inclusivity standards for playgrounds for the district.

Parent, Tea Ho, Lincoln encouraged PTOs, PTAs, to develop a playground plan ahead of time because it is very expensive (e.g. slide could be \$1,000 and schools may need 4).

Presentation on ICCSD Preschools

Jay Beaver presented. ICCSD’s current preschool program is part of Iowa’s voluntary preschool programs. ICCSD also makes arrangements with Frog Hollow, Stepping Stones, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, etc.

The slide features a decorative background with a vertical line and a red arrow pointing right. The title 'Current Preschool Programs' is centered at the top. Below it, a list of programs is provided, including school names and the number of classrooms. A small inset slide in the bottom left corner shows the title 'ICCSA Preschool Programs' and the date 'Mar 8, 2019'.

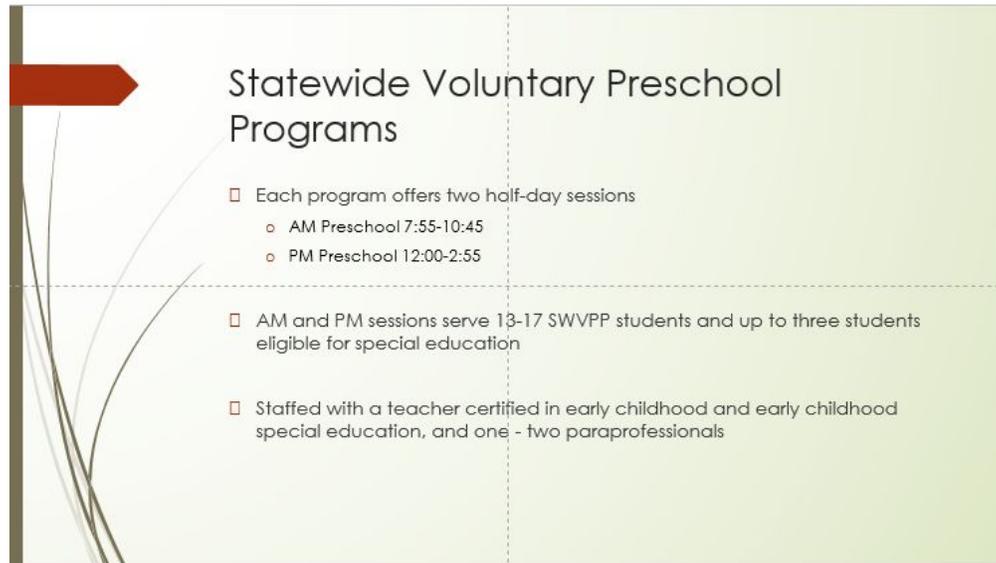
Current Preschool Programs

- State-Wide Voluntary Preschool Programs
 - 15 programs located in 11 elementary buildings + 4 Community Partners (7classrooms)
 - Alexander
 - Borlaug
 - Coralville Central
 - Hoover (2)
 - Kirkwood
 - Longfellow (2)
 - Penn
 - Shimek
 - Twain
 - Van Allen (2)
 - Weber (2)

ICCSA Preschool Programs
District Parents Organization Meeting
Mar 8, 2019

The state-wide voluntary preschool programs are fully inclusive programs. Teachers are dual

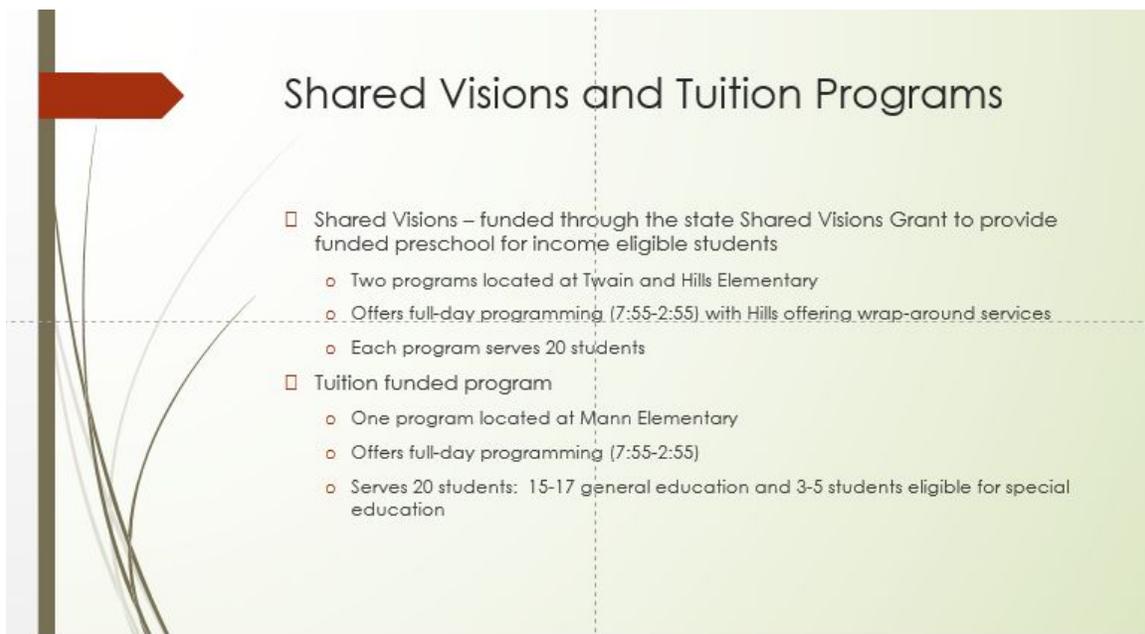
certified. Changes for 2019 include every school in North Liberty will have a preschool program next year and Mann's full day program is going to one-half time.



Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs

- Each program offers two half-day sessions
 - AM Preschool 7:55-10:45
 - PM Preschool 12:00-2:55
- AM and PM sessions serve 13-17 SWVPP students and up to three students eligible for special education
- Staffed with a teacher certified in early childhood and early childhood special education, and one - two paraprofessionals

Shared Visions - Hill has a separate grant for wrap around services so full day has fourteen students and a few tuition pay. Twain also has a full day program for twenty students.



Shared Visions and Tuition Programs

- Shared Visions – funded through the state Shared Visions Grant to provide funded preschool for income eligible students
 - Two programs located at Twain and Hills Elementary
 - Offers full-day programming (7:55-2:55) with Hills offering wrap-around services
 - Each program serves 20 students
- Tuition funded program
 - One program located at Mann Elementary
 - Offers full-day programming (7:55-2:55)
 - Serves 20 students: 15-17 general education and 3-5 students eligible for special education



Three Year Old Preschool

- Tuition paying program serving 10 general education students and up to five students eligible for special education
- Currently offer two three old preschool programs and will add a third for 2019-20
- Currently located at Hoover and Weber
- 2109-20: will be at Hoover, Borlaug, and Grant



What We Provide

- Utilize Creative Curriculum, which is based on early childhood theories and research with additional supplemental curriculums for literacy, math, and social/emotional skills
- Provide ongoing assessment of developmental domains aligned with the Iowa Early Learning Standards and screening assessments for literacy and math
- Implement Program-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Taught by state certified teachers in early childhood and early childhood special education
- Provide an inclusive preschool program experience for all students including those with Individualized Education Programs
- Accredited through the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards

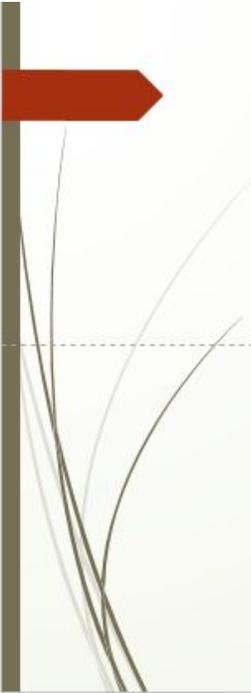
Preschool by the Numbers

Students Served:

- 574 general education four-year olds
- 20 general education three-year olds
- 77 students eligible for special education

Preschool by the Numbers

	Preschool	District
Male	49.9%	50.8
Female	50.1%	49.2%
Asian	7%	7%
Black or African American	31%	23%
Hispanic	11%	9%
American Indian	<1%	<1%
Native Hawaiian	<1%	<1%
White	48%	60%

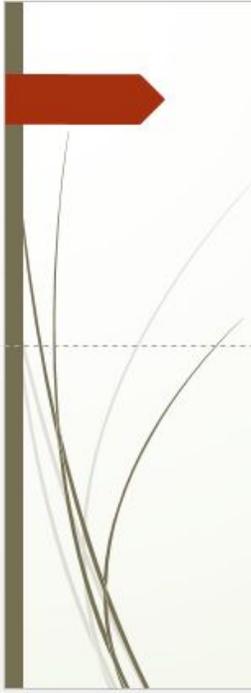


Preschool by the Numbers

Staff:

- 25 Teachers (18 in-district and 7 community partners)
- 41 Paraeducators
- 2 Instructional Design Strategists
- 1 Lead Support Teacher
- 1 Preschool Program Secretary

Instructional Design Strategists come from the TLC program. Jay Beaver is the Lead Support Teacher.



Current Preschool Funding

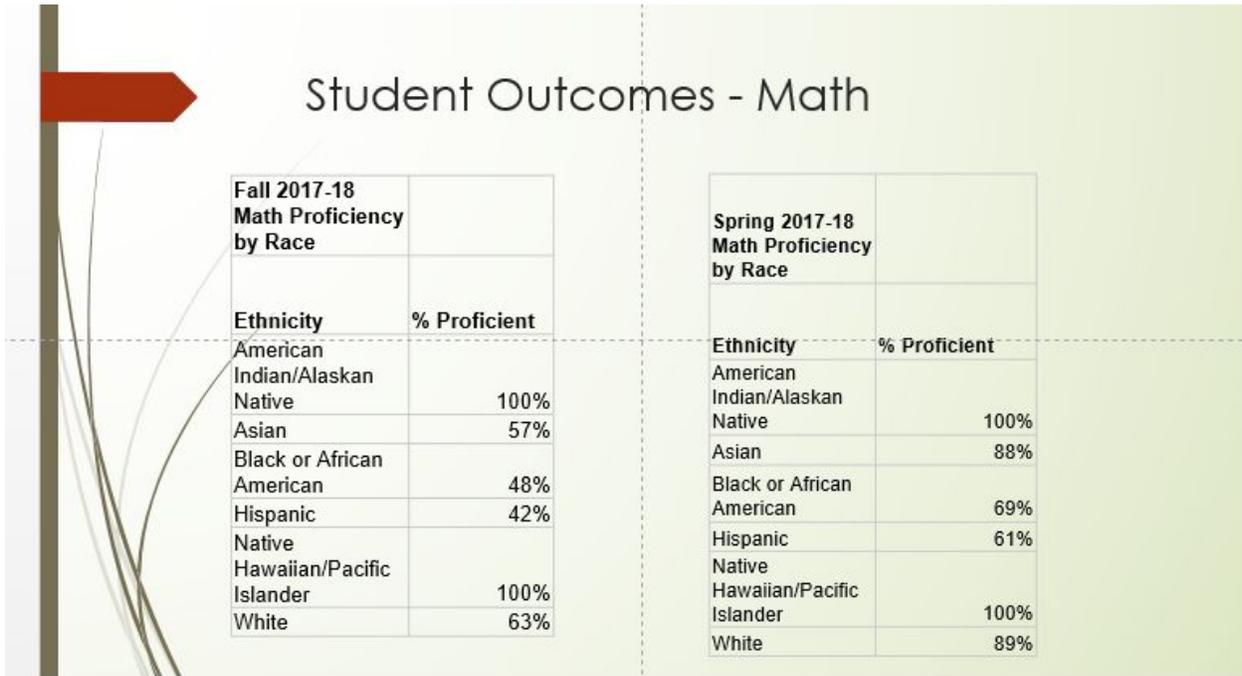
Funding for Preschool is generated from the following:

- SWVPP Preschool Foundation Aid
- Shared Visions Grant
- Tuition and Early Childhood Iowa Scholarships

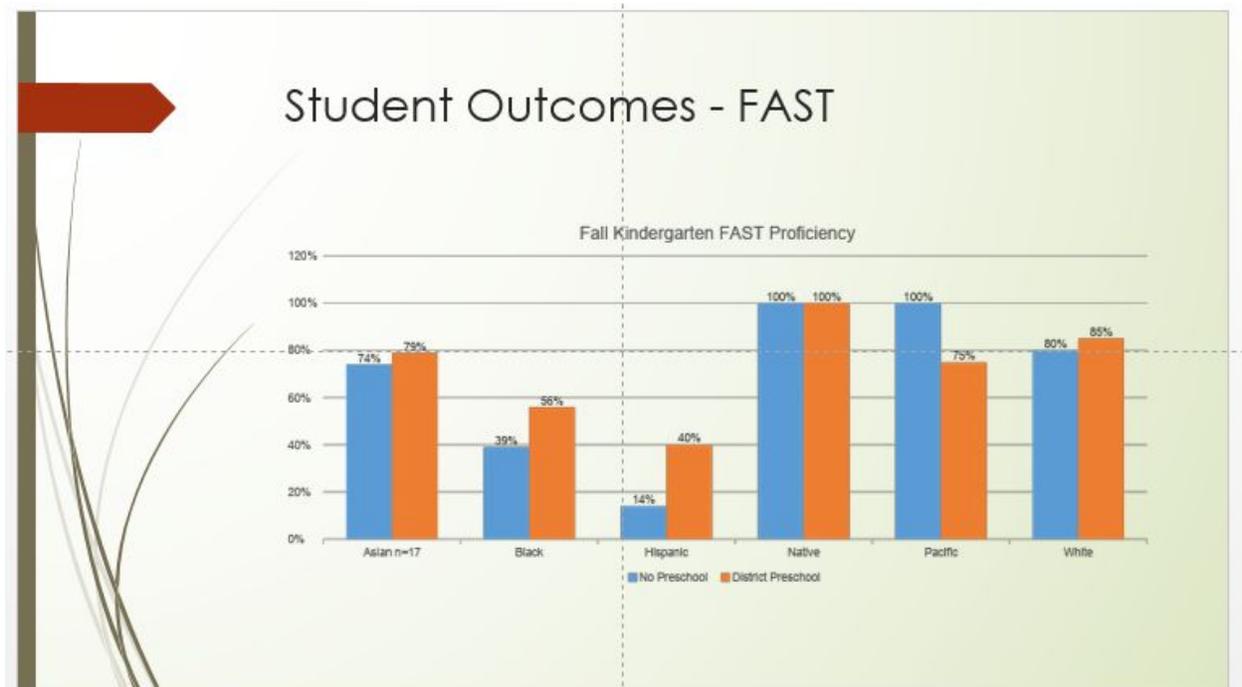
Additional Grants Awarded

- ICCSD Foundation Excellence Fund Grant awarded to preschool for 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years
- Iowa Department of Education Grant for implementation of Program Wide-Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

Preschool teachers received 5 out of 10 grants from the state.



Get Ready for School is the curriculum and has a screener for proficiency. District really looks at growth.





Preschool Center Task Force

In the spring of 2018 the school board approved a Preschool Task Force to consider the merits of a Preschool Center. In the fall of 2018 a Preschool Task Force convened.

Members:

- School Board Member Lori Roetlin,
- Preschool Coordinator Jay Beaver,
- Preschool IDS Terri Novak-Cicha, Sharon Helt,
- Preschool Teachers Molly Hartzler, Jordan Redig,
- Community Partners Laurie Nash, Jana Garrelts,
- Administrators Amy Kortemeyer, Lisa Glenn, Diane Schumacher, Lisa TeBockhorst, Chris Pisarik, Craig Hansel, Duane Van Hemert,
- AEA administrator Terri McGraw



Preschool Center Task Force

Work to date:

- Surveys sent to preschool teachers to gather information on advantages/disadvantages of a preschool center concept
- Survey sent to current kindergarten parents to gather information on their experiences in preschool
- Developed building considerations and classroom considerations – what a preschool center would look like from a facilities standpoint
- Addressed barriers and equity issues with a center concept vs preschools in elementary buildings

Committee will present report to Board Education Committee on May 21.

ICCSD's preschool center task force is looking at having a preschool center in place of location based preschools. The presentation to the board is on May 21st. A parent asked is the task center looked at whether preschool could be more accessible to working versus non-working parent?. A parent also asked about parents who couldn't pick up a child by 12? Mr. Beaver said the task force is looking at it and space is an issue when considering whether preschool could be a full day. A parent asked about transportation from e.g. Hoover to New Hoover. Mr. Beaver

said transportation was really a “third wheel.” A parent asked about curriculum and had heard there was no real schedule and it was left up to the teacher--“is that true?” Mr. Beaver said no, there is a schedule. A team meets weekly to look at what is happening and what is not. There are similar activities in all classrooms and preschool includes snack time and outdoor time.

A parent asked if there are concerns, who could the parent see. Mr. Beaver responded the principal. Another parent asked if Montessori was available. Mr. Beaver - no.

Mr. Beaver would like space for a full day preschool so kids could be in different parts of the building--e.g. Preschool and wrap around care. They are filling slots but missing around 300 kids who go to kindergarten but were not in preschool.

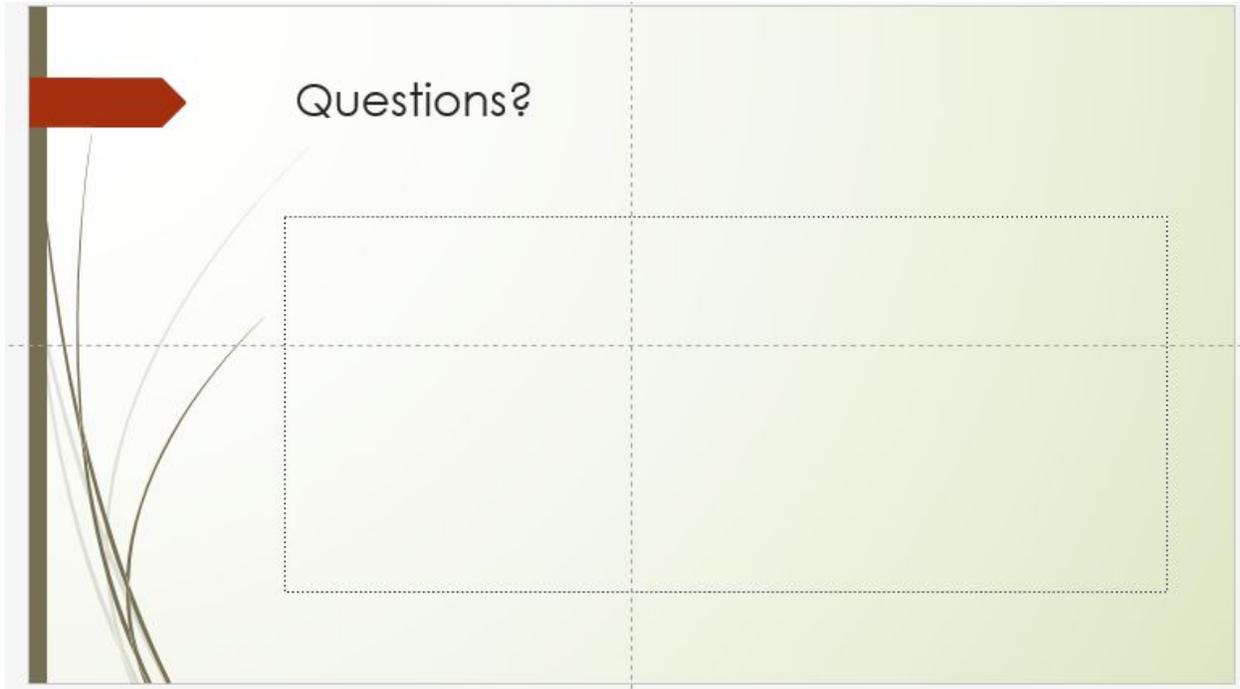
A parent asked a question about funding. “Won’t operating expenses of preschool come from the general fund?” Mr. Beaver stated it’s up to the district board to decide what to fund.

A parent mentioned that parents could be lost if ICCSD goes to a preschool center. Mr. Beaver stated 3 centers were proposed and the task force was looking at transportation.

A parent asked whether new buildings would be built for preschool or whether elementaries would be converted. Assistant Superintendent Amy Kortemeyer said ICCSD is looking at where parents work and hasn’t gotten into the weeds yet.

Another parent asked “how does this vision fit with the facilities master plan? Will preschool rooms in FMP slow down if moving to centers?” Mr. Beaver didn’t know. “Who will make decisions about space?” Mr. Beaver said ICCSD is working with the building principals. “Can preschoolers use elementary playgrounds?” a parent asked. Mr. Beaver responded yes but preschoolers can’t use the structures that are for five year olds up. A parent asked what about making the junior high 6-8 to free up space in the elementaries? Another parent asked how long board terms were--four years was the response.

Mr. Beaver added there is information about district preschools on the district’s website.



The group thanked Mr. Beaver for an interesting presentation and discussion.

Final Business

There was no final business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

By Jenni Mettemeyer and Mary Murphy, DPO Co-Secretaries

Co-Presidents: Miriam Timmer-Hackert*Eric Johnson

Co-Presidents Elect: Noor Miller*Stevie Toomey (Chad Meacham joining next school year)

Past Co-Presidents: Brad Kelly*Tara Sterba

Co-Secretaries: Jenni Mettemeyer*Mary Murphy

The next meeting is September 11th at Coralville Central from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.