

Parent Questions for Preschool in NMRSD

Logistics

Will the hours of the school day be changed so that parents who have other children riding the school buses in each town can be home to get their children on or off the bus? If so, what are the proposed hours?

Yes, the hours will be adjusted. We will take into consideration the beginning and ending times of the other schools in the district.

Will there be a district-wide lottery for spaces? If so, when? If not, what process will be used to determine order/preference?

We will be using the lottery from the three towns. Parents will be contacted and asked what their preference in sessions will be.

Will a 3 morning a week program be offered if enough parents are interested? (Like PFS did this past year)

No, there will not be a three morning program for 2009/2010. Peter Fitzpatrick School made the decision not to have a three morning program prior to the consolidation. When intent forms went out, the three morning program was not given as an option.

What are next year's tuition rates?

5 morning \$330 and 3 afternoon \$220 as approved by the school committee on January 26, 2009.

Program Specifics--Staff

When will we know which specific teachers will be teaching preschool? How long after that will we know which teacher our children will have?

At this time, staffing throughout the district has not been determined. We anticipate that by June 15th exact staffing will be solidified. Teachers will be assigned by the end of the school year.

Will there be a nurse on staff for all of the hours that pre-school is in session? Will s/he be on the premises?

A nurse will be on staff during the preschool hours. The nurse will have an office in the hallway where the classrooms are located. The office is currently the nurse's office.

Will special education teachers be on the premises to address the needs of students on IEP's, or will they travel from other schools?

Each of the integrated classrooms is taught by a certified special education teacher.

Program Specifics—classroom and program

How are the classes going to be determined? Will there be an effort to keep students from each town together? Likewise with children moving on to kindergarten in the fall or returning to Pre-School?

Classes will be determined using all factors that currently are used in the placement process. We will look at age, gender, and individual needs.

Will there be specials at Squannacook? Specifically, gym and music?

Yes there will be specials. We are in the process of looking at schedules, when we know them, we will share the information.

When the children are ready for kindergarten, how will the communication between the preschool teachers and the various towns' kindergarten teachers be implemented? Will the communication currently in place be lost in this move to Townsend? If not, how do you propose to maintain it?

Kindergarten transitions will take place as they have in the past. Every effort will be made to maintain or improve the transition.

What is the expected ratio of teachers to students?

The morning program will have fifteen children to one teacher and at least one assistant, typically there are two assistants in the morning. The afternoon program will have 18 children to one teacher and one assistant.

What is the specific ratio of EI/BD students to ordinary students in each classroom? Will that be affected if students are grouped according to town?

In the morning it will be 7 children on an IEP and 8 tuitioned students. In the afternoon it will be 5 children on an IEP and 13 tuitioned children.

Parent Involvement

Will there be areas for parent involvement? Specifically will there be a group like the PTO/PTSG or parent volunteers for things like copying, teacher appreciation, and other areas currently covered by such?

Parent involvement is a key component in the education process. We will establish a parent group for the District Preschool. Several parents have already volunteered to help establish the group.

Other Questions

Under which town's notification system will school be cancelled/notified/etc.? Is preschool more likely to be cancelled in inclement weather due to the distance most parents will be traveling?

The preschool will follow the North Middlesex Regional School district's inclement weather policy. The decision to solely cancel preschool would be at the discretion of the superintendent of schools and her support system.

With the preschool consolidated, will the district be pursuing NAEYC accreditation?

At this time, there has been no formal discussion regarding NAEYC accreditation.

Can we view the preschool classrooms in Squannacook over the summer to get a better idea of what the space will actually look like for preschool?

Summer school classes will be held in the preschool wing of Squannacook. Teachers will be working to set up their classrooms throughout the summer when their schedule allows. Parents are more than welcome to stop in during the summer to look at the classrooms after summer school hours.

Will there be new/better playground equipment installed at Squannacook? If so, how soon? Will it be closer to the wing where the children will be placed?

A new piece of equipment will be bought for Squannacook. The money is being purchased with the Special Education Stimulus Grant. We hope to see it installed before the first day of school. It will be placed in the vicinity of the existing playground.

To whom should we address further questions and/or concerns?

Questions or concerns may be directed to Suzanne Foley. You may email her at sfoley@middlesex.mec.edu or call 978-433-6510.