



Sunshine Academy

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Parent Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Thursday June 29, 2017 4:30PM - 5:30PM

1. Young Composers Project

- Every summer Dave works with the Pre-K classrooms on a capstone project called the Young Composers Project. The goal is to teach children the basics of music composition and offer them the opportunity to compose and record their own original songs. Dave uses a system of shape visuals and corresponding sounds to show children how to create musical patterns. In small groups, the children use computer software, designed by Dave, to compose and record their own songs with lyrics. The songs are arranged on a CD and are presented at Stepping Up Day.

2. Stepping Up Day Events:

- On Thursday August 31st, 2017 we will hold our annual Stepping Up Day event. All families are invited to attend. The event is meant to celebrate the Pre-K graduates and all of the children that are moving on to the next age group. We will hold a Pre-K graduation ceremony from 5:00-5:30 for Pre-K families only. Following the graduation ceremony, we will have a school wide art show and catered dinner for all families to attend. Each classroom will have an art display set up and there will be a buffet style dinner in the outdoor classroom. Please spread the word that Stepping Up Day is for all families.

3. Academic Calendar:

- The academic calendar for 2017 and 2018 is posted on the school's website and in the parent handbook. We always publish 2 years in advance in order for families to plan ahead for school closings. Currently the 2019 closings are not listed, but we will be closed on Monday December 31st, 2018 and Tuesday January 1st, 2019. At the next PAB meeting in September, we will discuss the academic calendar for 2019.

4. Extra Days for Pre-K Graduates:

- The pre-k graduates are enrolled until Thursday August 31st. The Public Schools of Brookline do not begin school until the end of the following week. Some Pre-K parents have approached Emily about the possibility of staying at Sunshine through September 7th or 8th. We will not be able to confirm space availability in the classroom until the beginning of August, and if there is space, it will be very limited. Families should plan to make other arrangements for those days. If space is available, Emily will notify the families who have contacted her and offer the space to the families who have expressed an extreme need.

5. Preschool/Pre-K Configuration for 2017/2018 School Year:

- Currently the PS/PK program is set up with two Preschool classrooms and one Pre-K classroom. Each school year we have to assess enrollment and determine how to configure the classrooms to ensure that every child who is graduating at the end of the school year goes through the Pre-K program. Based on current enrollments, we will continue with keeping two Preschool rooms and one Pre-K room. Children from the Toddler program will transition into either Preschool One or Preschool Two, based on space availability, gender mix, and teacher/child pairings.

6. Outdoor Classroom Rules for Parents:

- We have been having issues with parent usage of the outdoor classroom in the evenings after signing out their children. Children are not being actively supervised by their parents and are misusing materials, especially the sandbox. The classrooms teachers clean the outdoor classroom at the end of the day by closing the sandbox and putting away materials in the shed. Parents have been opening the sandbox for their children and allowing the children to dump sand in the water table and all over the ground, creating a mess and safety concerns. As a result, we will be putting a few basic rules in place for the outdoor classroom. We recommend that parents take their children to the park after signing out instead of playing in the outdoor classroom.

7. Follow Ups:

- Solar Panels:
 - We now have 110 solar panels covering the roof of the building. The panels went live in April and have been producing enough electricity to cover almost all of our monthly usage.

8. Upcoming Events:

- Stepping Up Day and Art Show: Thursday August 31st, 2017
 - Pre-K Graduation Ceremony (for Pre-K families) 5:00-5:30pm
 - Art Show and Dinner (for all families) 5:30-6:30pm
- Professional Development Day School Closure: Friday September 1st

9. Next Meeting: TBD