



Sunshine Academy

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Parent Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Thursday June 6, 2016 4:30PM - 5:45PM

1. Spring Music Show CD Digital Release:

- For the first time, we are releasing Dave Hanft's Spring 2016 album digitally. An email will be sent to all families with a link to download the MP3 files. The songs are property of David Hanft and Sunshine Academy, so please do not release the music to anyone outside of the Sunshine Academy community. CDs will be available by request. Please let Emily know if you would like a CD.

2. 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.
- Children who are graduating at the end of this summer from Pre-K One and Two will participate in the project.
- The songs are arranged on a CD and are presented at Stepping Up Day.

3. Upcoming Teacher and Classroom Changes:

- During the summer months there are many transitions between classrooms from infant through pre-k.
- Summer also offers an opportunity for teachers to request to work with new ages groups if they are interested in teaching in a new classroom, or want to "loop" up with a group of children.
- Some recent changes that occurred were that Nick Pearson joined pre-k one as David Goodridge's replacement. Jessica Harding joined the toddler two teaching

team, as Nick's replacement. Jessica moved to WS from our Coolidge Corner South location.

- There may be some team assignment changes in the next few months. The changes are designed to best support the children in each classroom.

4. Preschool/Pre-K Program Update:

- Currently the program is structured with one preschool room and two pre-k rooms. There have been two pre-k classrooms to ensure that each child who will graduate at the end of this summer had access to our pre-k curriculum and learning goals.

- Beginning in September 2016, we will shift back to two preschool classrooms and one pre-k classroom. Children from the toddler program will transition to either preschool room. The choice of classroom depends on the following factors: gender split, teacher and child matching, age range, and parent recommendation.

5. Parent Translator Volunteers:

- We are requesting parents who speak languages other than English to volunteer as translators for new families joining the school. We currently have teachers who can translate Spanish and Mandarin. It would be helpful to have volunteers who speak Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Arabic (all languages are welcome).

- If you would like to volunteer to serve as a translator for new families, please send Emily an email.

- Translators would be connected to new families in person and by phone or email to help support their transition into the school and to ensure clear exchanges of information.

6. Website Questions:

- Should we post the PAB meeting agenda and minutes on the website?

- All members agreed that the minutes should be posted to the site.

- Can we include the names and email addresses of the PAB on the website?

- All members were comfortable having their names and email addresses included on the site. Please let Emily know if you have a specific email you would like posted on the site.

7. Outdoor Classroom Improvements:

- A new texture wall was added to the outdoor classroom. The wall is made with tiles of various colors and textures.

- New musical panels are being installed in the outdoor classroom in the next two weeks. These panels will replace the current panels.

- A former Sunshine Academy teacher turned artist will be painting a large scale mural on the white wall in the outdoor classroom. The work will begin in the next few weeks. The mural will feature a nature scene with children engaged in various learning activities.

8. Upcoming Events:

- Stepping Up Day/Art Show: Monday August 29, 2016.

- Pre-K Graduation Ceremony: 5:00-5:30
- Catered Dinner and Art Show: 5:30-6:30
 - All families are invited to attend.

9. Suggestions:

- Parents discussed improving the storage of strollers and car seats in the vestibule. We are going to try a system of storing car seats/scooters on one side and stack strollers on the other.
- Parents discussed utilizing the low planters for new materials to keep the children interested in the space.
- Parents discussed opportunities for going green. Andrew and Emily talked about steps the school takes to go green through recycling and purchasing products that are made from mostly recycled material.

10. Next Meeting: TBD