

Update from the First Advisory Committee Meeting

Eastside Families,

We met for the first time Wednesday and felt that the meeting was very productive and positive. It was highly apparent that there is a lot to discuss on a short timeframe. We want to share with you some highlights from the meeting and ask for comment.

At the meeting we were given the attached document. The teachers are embracing and have voted to adopt the idea of “blocks” during the day. The schedule of the day has not been determined at this time. The progression of the blocks on the attached sheet should not be construed as being the daily schedule.

There are some givens. The Math and Language Arts “Core Block” must be at least 2.5 hours a day with 90 minutes for L.A. (60 minutes of which should be reading). Math need to be at least 60 minutes each day. Additionally, the requirements for PE are increasing to 30 minutes 3 times per week.

The “Project Block” will be a bit different from the current Eastside projects. The projects will be larger in scope and fewer of them. This will allow teachers to focus on a small number of projects and allow the projects to be more in depth and of higher quality.

There would also be an “Arts Block” and it will be similar in length to current Eastside projects, but will have a focus in the arts: music, theater, graphic arts, fine arts, etc.

We spent a fair amount of the meeting talking about Advisee. This week the students are going to be polled in their Advisees about what it is about Advisee that is special to them.

This coming week teachers as a group and the advisory committee will be focused on:

- Transitions during the day
- Advisee
- Program structure—how children will be grouped in the “blocks” including the degree of age mixing and the team teaching structure

If you have thoughts about this that you would like for us to share at the advisory meeting next week, please get in touch with us by email if possible, or in writing that you can give to us or leave in the office. You may stop us in the hall to talk as well, but know that the other modes of communication may be a more efficient use of time.

Regards, Tom Cramer, Sarah Petersen and Tamara Torrence