

**Lane Early Learning Alliance
Parent Advisory Council
November 11, 2021
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Icebreaker
- Group agreements

2. What's on Your Mind?

- What's been particularly tricky or stressful at home right now?
- Are there resources or help you need with things like communication, gentle discipline, routines, or developing your child's social and emotional skills?
- Is there anything you're particularly concerned about with your child's development or early learning, such as getting ready for kindergarten or learning how to read?
- Are there topics or activities you'd like this group to tackle in the coming year?
- Are there any leadership trainings that you might be interested in?

- Communication with teachers; trying to be respectful that teachers have it hard and also need to advocate for my child's needs
 - He's in school; had more communication when we were distance learning, had office hours; this year- no talking at pick up, no online presence, no office hours; teachers are also burnt out, don't hear about what's going on in the classroom
 - Bess: districts are so short-staffed that the teachers aren't getting any sort of break; could invite folks from the district to ask how you want to hear from parents

- Regarding 3rd grade reading benchmark, for my own child, reading has been and is still a struggle; were on the waitlist for school, continues to be behind; not any extra reading programs or supports
 - Daughter requires 1-on-1 to be in school and don't know if they will have that for her; life skills school is constantly canceled because they are short staffed; not having opportunity to be in-person, online isn't an option
 - Bess: legal responsibility of district to provide services to kids with disabilities, specific needs

- Teacher was having challenges with kids; would want to go into the classroom to help but can't go into the building with the pandemic; know that the teacher's job is difficult but also need to help my daughter. Daughter says it's easy and boring; when she's done, the teacher tells her to repeat it, or she will play with a tablet; don't want my daughter to fall behind because she has to wait for others to finish; should my daughter be evaluated? Move up a grade? Worried that she won't be improving this year
 - Bess: because teachers are stretched so thin, they aren't able to give much individual attention to those who are struggling and those who are advanced

- Resources outside of the school day that can help with enrichment? So hard with COVID to not know what the coming years will look like; every industry is hiring
- Jen: I wonder if our schools still have TAG?
 - Bess: I don't know if they're doing that right now, happy to reach out to school partners to see if we can get someone here to listen
 - Adriana: Educación para Talentosos y Dotados (TAG por sus siglas en inglés) <https://www.4j.lane.edu/instruction/tag/>
- Have one more year of preschool, at Relief Nursery now; what skills should he have going into kindergarten? It's much different than when I was in kindergarten
- All of this is why we made the hard choice to home-school; working in the district and as a parent; Creswell has 28 open positions right now
 - Also hearing about mental health supports for parents; how to help our kids through this; in survival mode right now
 - Safety issues surrounding places in Eugene, CG library has people sleeping in parking lot, stairs, got asked for money; don't want to take my 6 year old to those places
 - Bess: housing crisis has exploded in Oregon, cities don't know what to do; libraries are a common public space that unhoused go to use facilities, take shelter; but
 - Megan: I have the same concern and go out a lot less because of it
 - Bess: we are experiencing collective trauma, uncertainty; this country has lousy mental health services; something coming from state around supporting kids' mental health, focuses on child-parent interaction
- This is kind of a Parent Cafe meeting for me; rush to get anything done in the day; look forward to having this meeting b/c we get to talk to parents
 - : Upcoming Bilingual Parent Café registration November 18: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-strong-relationships-with-your-children-tickets-203356955127?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>
 - Heidi: I work with 90by30, got grant through LK to do Parent Cafes; the parent is the expert, come together and talk about successes and challenges; actually going to one is amazing, encourage you to check it out! (bilingual)
 - Sometimes hierarchy in parenting programs; in the cafe, the professionals come as parents too, breaks down barriers
 - Bess: also grant to First Place Family Center for unhoused families, have done Parent Cafes with these families
- Bess: one of the things coming from the state, requiring early learning hubs to have a parent council; exploring ways to build in more advocacy (i.e. leadership training); not sure what leadership training looks like at broad system-level leadership; opportunity to bring training to this group
 - 8 parents interested
- Parent Engagement Coordinator from state would like to attend meeting, is that okay? Yes
- Please reach out if something comes up later (email Bess or Adriana)

- Eugene 4J school district is training counselors in Conscious Discipline; parent and classroom curriculum; 7 skills you build at school and at home; similar to KITS model; positive parenting skills; talking about how we can help expand that across district and into preK
 - Want to help incentivize parents to attend 8 modules: do you prefer something like a gift card or grubhub and redbox access code (more specific)
 - cash is always good if you have the choice
 - gift card
 - cash
 - would prefer cash to utilize it for something for specific
 - Tarjeta de regalo como se ha venido haciendo está bien para mi gracias a ustedes por toda la información 😊

3. Announcements or other news/good for the order

Next meeting dates

January 13, 2022

February 10, 2022