

**Lane Early Learning Alliance  
Parent Advisory Council  
January 13, 2022  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Icebreaker
- Group agreements

**2. School Questions/Concerns – Judy Newman, Early Childhood CARES & 4J School Board**

- Tricky or challenging situations: Covid situations and “close contact” – how do families determine if their child has been directly or indirectly exposed. Judy will follow up.
- No staff to support the kids in Life Skills classes – families understand but these kids are falling so far behind
- Transportation, especially for the younger kids (Kinder & 1<sup>st</sup> grade) – big staff shortages has made transportation especially difficult. There is compensation available for parents that have been impacted by the transportation shortage. And there may be some way to meet parents so they didn't have to get everyone out of the car.
- Due to Covid and no additional adults in the buildings, knowing what's going on in the classroom has been particularly tricky right now and the lack of communication makes it really hard to stay on top of what's happening.
- The rumor mill is also in full effect and districts need to do a better job addressing what's real & factual.
- Need more info about when to keep kids at home/when to send them to school
- There's concern about the qualifications for school staff – they seemed to have been lowered so far that people who haven't been trained or have adequate qualifications are being hired, simply because they apply.
- Question about how to better request/select a teacher that would be the best fit for the child.
- Would love for Judy to return to our meeting every quarter.

**3. Family Leadership Council – Cassandra Ferder, Early Learning Division (ELD)**

- She's visiting many parent councils around the state to hear from parents
- Resource toolkit & leadership training for parent councils
- The ELD wants to do a better job co-creating policy with parents so they're putting some resources behind building parent leaders and parent councils.
- The ELD is interested in knowing best practices for what makes a good parent council – technology, stipends, transportation
- There's a great study showing the impact of parent leadership on their child's kindergarten readiness.

- Not being viewed as much as a “consumer” of the early childhood system, but more as a partner in the system.
- The system needs to make it easier for parents who don't speak English to participate.
- Once we resume in-person meetings, having meetings at a Spanish-speaking organization to better reach the Spanish speaking community and invite them in. As well as provide snacks and childcare as more incentive.
- Bring more Spanish-speaking guests. Especially around sitting on boards or participating at a leadership level.
- You all are really good at "closing the loop" communication wise. I am appreciative that you always follow back up with the group about our feedback. It makes it feel like it's worth my while to attend.

#### **4. Announcements or other news/good for the order**

- Bess is leaving her role at United Way but the Parent Council is in great hands with Adriana. She will miss you all!

Next meeting date

February 10, 2022