

Mayor's Commission for Children Minutes

April 9, 2019, 8 am

James B Anderson Conference Room

202 S John Q Hammons Parkway

Springfield Mo. 65806

Commission Members Present: Trysta Herzog, Jennifer McClure, Shara Cash, Bria Coale, Christy Davis, Missy Riley, Chris Jarratt, Susie Henderson

Commission Members absent: Linda Saturno

Advisory Council Present: Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Dr. Doug McNeal, Alexis Brown, Gerry Lee, Linda Ramey Greiwe, John Chastain, Jennifer Baker, Jan Fisk, Dr. Denise Fredrick, Dr. Kayce Morton

Advisory Council Absent: Morey Mechlin, Carol Wooten, Mike White, Amy Chenoweth, Dr. Laurie Edmondson, Pat Gartland, Kimberly Shinn-Brown

Jennifer McClure called the meeting to order at 8:05. Minutes were reviewed, Bria Coale offered a motion to approve, Shara Cash seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

A presentation of the 2018 Kindergarten readiness study was presented by Dr. Melissa Fallon from the Dixon Research Center at Missouri State University. Here were some key takeaways from the new data:

Overall readiness (as determined by teachers)—26% not prepared (24.7% in 2016). Not a statistically significant difference, but a slight up-tick.

F/R lunch students were “not ready” at 40.6% as opposed to 10.6% “not ready” for their full-paying peers.

Students who did not attend a formal preschool were “not ready” at 51.1% as opposed to 17.8% of their peers who attend a formal preschool.

Boys were “not ready” at a rate of 31.1% as opposed to girls at a rate of 21.1%

Our “N” was the highest it has ever been this year at 435. Previous years ranged from a low of 284 to a high of 382. The first three of the five studies included students from other districts. The difference in the percentage of students identified as not prepared in 2018 was not statistically significant as compared to either 2006 or 2010.

The DIAL-IV was re-normed after the 2010 study. This might explain the large decrease in the mean.

- 1) F/R students were SIGNIFICANT less ready for school than their full-paying peers especially when they did not attend Preschool or Pre-K.
- 2) Students who did not attend preschool were SIGNIFICANTLY less ready for school than their peers who attended preschool
- 3) We are ABSOLUTELY doing the right thing by prioritizing F/R students and as many 4-year-olds as we can serve in the Springfield Public Schools.

There will be a roll-out to the community of this report on April 23 at 10:00 at the Chamber of Commerce. Our Communications subcommittee will offer suggestions on press-release. Cora Scott at the City will also help with the Press-Release to media. All are encouraged to attend to help with interviews. Brigitte and Trysta will be meeting with Claudette Riley at the News-Leader in advance of press-release.

Due to absences at our May meeting. We will not be having our May meeting. Commission members and advisory council are encouraged to attend the Prosper Springfield breakfast on May 14th to support Prosper Springfield annual data results.

The next Mayor's Commission for Children meeting will be off site at the Health Department at 8 am June 11th, Conference Room 139. Clay Goddard and Katie Towns will be giving us an overview of services and priorities with in the Greene County Health Department.