

- Payroll - Mrs. Douglas is absent.
- Correspondence: Budget to Actual – None

FHS Student Representative: Alanna Lynch spoke for all Seniors who were especially excited for 2 snow days. Thank you. She advised that on February 22 the seniors will receive caps and gowns, very exciting. The senior class is selling Superman bracelets for in honor of John Lonati who passed away. They have created a website so the bracelets can be shipped to anyone who has ordered them online. The link will be available soon.

Julie Harrington advised the Committee that officers met with faculty counsel regarding the new food policy. The students can eat in the majority of building besides the project rooms, certain part of the library, computer and science labs. The teachers do have discretion to implement the new policy within their classroom. There is also a new lanyard policy, students no longer need to wear them throughout the school day, must have them on their person to get in and out of the building and if they are asked to show it. Julie also noted that there are a few student issues, one of which she would like to talk about tonight. It has come to their attention that parents are dropping their kids off in the student parking lot, causing lots of traffic jams and near accidents. It is suggested that students be dropped off in the loop not in student parking lot.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Student Services Update

Ms. Debbie Dixon introduced Ms. Stephanie Geddes, the Assistant Director of Student Services and Ms. Sue Borchard, who has been recently transferred to Assistant Principal of Special Education to fill a vacancy at Franklin High School.

Ms. Dixon, presented an overview of the duties that are handled in the Student Services Department. Ms. Dixon advised the Committee that they handle Special Education, Guidance & Counseling, Homeless Education and 504 requirements.

Ms. Dixon advised the committee of that Section 504, which is a Civil Rights Law, is designed to ‘level the playing field’ by eliminating barriers to education and provide for accommodations. Ms. Dixon advised the Committee of the eligibility for Section 504 as well as the major life activities that 504 accommodates, i.e. learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and several others. Ms. Dixon provided to the Committee the headcount based on October 1, 2015 report that is submitted to DESE, she

advised that this is the number of students on 504 plans out of the total number of students in the district, there is a range, but overall it is relatively low.

Ms. Dixon also shared something that is important to the Student Services Department which is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. This law ensures that students have protections when they are experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act requires School Districts to support these children by providing immediate enrollment and is required to accept students in the District immediately, with or without receiving immunization records or school records, which is required for all other students enrolling in school districts; a student may become homeless from Franklin but may find lodging in another community, the student has the option to be transported, back to Franklin, which helps to provide the least disruption; students are eligible for free lunch; they have access to comparable services, in no way can we discriminate against a student because of homelessness; and families with preschool age children have access to preschool.

Dr. O'Malley questioned the students attending the school without immunizations as it is a big issue, yet we have a group of students who do not have to be immunized around our students?

Ms. Dixon advised that it is not that they do not have immunizations, we just do not need the records at the time the student is entering the school district. In past two years, we have served roughly 20 students. Sally works with previous district and we make every effort to obtain record. We also provide support and counseling to the families.

Ms. Winslow advised that our Nurse Leader will work with the family to obtain any immunizations and/or records. It hasn't been a problem but the law says we need to admit them.

Stephanie Geddes, Assistant Director of Student Services gave an overview of the Special Education Laws and what is Special Education.

Ms. Geddes advised that special education is specially designed instruction for students including related services, i.e. speech language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, adjustment counselors, etc. Special Education is significant modification to content. A Student's success depends on a cohesive team collaborating in a consolidated effort, which includes their special education teachers, general education teachers, related services providers and also administration.

Ms. Geddes also advised the Committee as to when a Student is Eligible for Special Education. She advised that while there are several factors, one in particular is the 'lack of effective is caused by the disability' this is important to highlight as it is not just their academic ability, but also their ability of being a part of the life of the school and the community. Ms. Geddes provided IEP Facts and Figures and explained for example at Davis Thayer out of the 262 students, 35 receive specialized instruction. She further explained about the specialized programs in the District. Ms. Geddes also advised the Committee of the 3 programs that we have in District, one being STRIVE which is instruction routed in the ABA methodology and addresses functional academic skills, vocational skills, activities of daily living, some basic life skills and it is held at Keller, Annie Sullivan Middle School and the High School. The IDEAS program which is held at Jefferson/Remington which is language based instruction, reading, writing, communication, social pragmatic skills as well as a variety of other skills and the REACH program which is held at Oak Street, Horace Mann and the High School which concentrates on therapeutic programming and addresses behavioral regulation, social pragmatic skills, social skills, etc.

The ECDC percentage is vastly higher at 37%, it actually what we are looking 50% or less for ECDC as that is what the program is built for to provide an integrating program for them at the youngest level.

It has been the history of the district to be below the state average of Students on IEP's and as of October 1, 2015 report we were at 15.5%.

Ms. Borchard gave a brief update on the types of disabilities, however, would like to clarify that a disability that would require a student access to an IEP is an education disability not a medical disability. There are 12 categories of disabilities with Multiple Disabilities being a Federal disability category, however, in Massachusetts Autism a growing category everywhere and some students with autism are listed under communication as they have challenges with social pragmatics. The category of Developmental Delays is a broad category that is used for students ages 3 to 9, we use this if there is something not quite right and as we are getting more familiar with their learning profile, having not landed on what is specifically getting in the way but we know they are not making effective progress at school, by the age of 9 we need to move them from the Development Delays category to another one. Ms. Borchard advised that the Specific Learning Disability category has historically been the greatest area of disability for Student not only in Franklin but everywhere and it continues to be the profile in our community too. Within Franklin, we are always looking to educate children in the least restrictive environment which is going to meet their needs, our goal for students, is for

them to be in the general education population as much as they are able to learn and make progress in that environment, Ms. Borchard advised the Committee that in Franklin we have a wonderful model which has been extremely successful and she is very proud of it where there is a grade level teacher and special education teacher in the classroom teaching as equals in a classroom, addressing the needs of all students as partners. Ms. Borchard advised that if a student is out of the classroom for any services from 21% - 60% of the day it would be considered partial inclusion. It could also be a student in one of our specialized programs that is being integrated into a mainstream classroom. Ms. Borchard advised the Committee that 90 students are in Substantially Separate settings and are serviced in one of our In-District programs (REACH, IDEAS, STRIVE) but it also includes collaborate programs in another district outside the Town of Franklin.

Ms. Borchard advised that there are several students who are placed in out of district Public Separate Day Schools, Private Separate Day Schools and Residential Schools. All those placements are 766 approved programs through DESE.

Ms. Dixon advised that there will be a special education survey coming out in March targeting families and faculty on issues with special education and we will use that data to improve our programming and be responsive to their needs.

Ms. Dixon advised the Committee that the Coordinated Program Review has not been received, however, preliminary reports indicate that we were 100% compliant and we are very proud of that.

Ms. Dixon also advised the committee of the Leaping into Kindergarten program for parents of children with first time kindergartners on February 29th, 2016 (Leap Day).

Along with the Special Education update, there was also a presentation from students Rachel Solomon, Co-President, Jason Kleinberg, Co-President and Keith Cleary, Buddy Director of the Best Buddies program at Franklin High School, who gave an update on what the Best Buddies program is about and all the fun activities that the Best Buddies are involved in. The students are involved with more than just football, they have attended volleyball games, basketball games and are going to work with other teams as well. Best Buddies is now on Twitter.

Ms. Borchard spoke to the committee about parent involvement because what we do for the children is right and good and the same, however, when parents are involved and partner with us as a school district, the success of our students is marvelous.

(recess)

As part of the Special Education presentation, the Chair of SEPAC (Special Education Parents Advisory Committee) Sara Mulcahy, advised the Committee that they are a 501(c)3 program operating separately from Franklin Public Schools but collaborate with Franklin Public Schools. Ms. Mulcahy advised the Committee that their primary goal is to create a special needs community of parents.

Ms. Caryn Budd who is the Vice Chair of SEPAC spoke about how the Franklin School District helped her son Korey who is now 16 and attending the Guild School in Waltham.

Dr. O'Malley is proud of the work being done including all the children. Very impressed with the presentation.

Dr. Jewell told a story of special needs twins that are in his family whose parents were not very involved. He explained that the kids were doing well and one of them had an art show that he attended. Dr. Jewell shared that what impacted him was that he invited one of the boys up to West Point where he worked for a couple of days. When he went to the art show, the paintings were all of West Point. These kids really know what it means to work hard. None of us work as hard as these kids do. He encourages parents to be involved. We need to work together whether handicapped or not handicapped.

Ms. Bilello requested a copy of the presentation as she arrived a little late.

Ms. Dixon informed the Committee that it is a free trial program that they are unable to print.

Ms. Bilello asked if Ms. Dixon as a new director had any area of focus on the growth and change in the Special Education program?

Ms. Dixon informed the Committee that she has 3 areas of growth she would like to focus on.

1. Improved technology for students to access the curriculum and to keep up with technology.
2. Extensive Professional Development in specialized instructional areas for both Teachers and Educational Assistants on whom we rely on so much for their work with the children.

3. Flexibility in programming so that we are able to adapt to students needs and create fluid programming to meet their needs.

Dr. Bergen thanked the Special Education Administrators. We are lucky to have in Franklin an incredible Special Education Department. Dr. Bergen inquired as to whether we track the students who no longer need services? How successful the interventions are along the way?

Ms. Dixon advised that we have tracked the data although we are not able to access it readily, we can get it for you.

Dr. Jewell commented that he receives some complaints that students are taken off 504 plans before the parents want their kids to be taken off so they will continue to be successful.

Ms. Dixon advised that the District has available District Accommodation Plans. They are designed for students who are transitioning from 504 plans or IEP's and hopes that those accommodation plans are in full effect so students can be successful.

Dr. O'Malley thanked the Administrators again for an excellent presentation.

ECDC Update

Ms. Kelty Kelley presented an overview of the Early Childhood Development Center program. (See power point attached)

Ms. Kelley advised the Valentine's delivered at the meeting shows the partnership with the Senior Center. At least once a week there is a class that walks up the hill to the Senior Center to partner with the Seniors.

Ms. Kelley and members of ECDC staff handed out a 'Face Book'. Ms. Kelley puts this together for all staff and parents at ECDC. She was grateful when she started at ECDC to receive a book with pictures of all the Administrative Staff in it.

Ms. Kelley shared that at ECDC we value learning through discovery. Ms. Kelley shared several photos of students working on different activities where they are learning through discovery.

Ms. Kelley advised that the Service Dog from the community came to ECDC and visited a couple of classrooms and one classroom had high energy, bringing the dog in really calmed the energy down.

Ms. Kelley shared ECDC's planning for the 2016-2017,

She also was excited to advise the Committee about the ECDC Community garden which was originally started with a grant from the YMCA. It has continued and the Town of Franklin has fenced it in, they rototill it to get it ready to plant in the spring, etc.

Ms. Kelley advised that yoga is used in the classroom in one way or another. The teachers are now blogging which provides more information than a newsletter. ECDC is using more and more technology as a learning tool.

3. Discussion Only Items

- **Calendar Committee** - Dr. O'Malley advised that the School Calendar sub-committee has been launched; there is no vote needed as it is a sub-committee. Dr. O'Malley has appointed Mary Jane Scofield as the Chair of this subcommittee. Ms. Scofield advised that she would like to have a discussion with the Superintendent and Dr. O'Malley before setting the date of the first meeting. She confirmed that the Superintendent would like a recommendation by June.

Ms. Sabolinski agreed that it was a good target as any transformational change in the school calendar can be an issue for parents with regard to childcare needs, planning vacations, etc. Ms. Sabolinski advised that we do wish to honor the commitments to families and give them plenty of time to make decisions is only fair.

Ms. Bilello would like to suggest that there are set parameters for participation on the Committee. We would acquire the Data from surveys. etc.

4. Action Items:

- a. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$20.00 from a parent for district wide field trips.
Motion: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 6
Second: Ms. Schultz
Oppose: 0

Meghan Georges, Soccer - University of New Haven

Beth Neal, Volleyball and Track - Middlebury

Dominic Giardini, Track - Colby

Mike Bullen, Track - Colby Sawyer

Olivia Truenow, LaCrosse - Western New England

Maddie Connelly, Softball - Endicott

Danya McCue, Volleyball - Connecticut College

Leah Zogby, Swimming - Holy Cross

Alex Bissanti, Baseball - Fitchburg State

Chris Dancewicz, Track - Franklin Pierce

Ms. Sabolinski advised the Committee that the Boston Globe announced the Scholastic Art awards. Ms. Sabolinski was proud to congratulate the following students for their accomplishments.

Jacqueline Forcina, Melissa Fredrick from Annie Sullivan Middle School; Ben Cohn, Meag Davis, Anna Humphreys, Ben Pielocik, Rebecca Simpson, Morgan Soderlund, Emma Trinanes and Lauren Wilson from Franklin High School; and Elizabeth Ball and Katie Boyle from Remington Middle School.

Our Art program is exceptional.

Ms. Sabolinski would like to thank the DPW for all their hard work to keep not only the community safe as well as our students. They did a wonderful job.

Ms. Sabolinski advised the Committee that there were Connect Ed issues with the two (2) snow days. Many did not receive calls. The vendor had trouble statewide.

Ms. Sabolinski explained the reason for making the call Sunday night was partially because the student government students were scheduled for a trip to New Hampshire and would be leaving about 5:00 a.m. It was best to err on the side of caution. The students were very disappointed and we hope to make it up to the students.

Ms. Scofield commented on list of the students heading to good colleges for sports, congratulation to each and every one of them. Thank you to Brad for promoting the kids.

Ms. Sabolinski advised the Committee that Family Science Night will be held again this year on March 10th at Franklin High School from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the National Honor Society. The information has been put on twitter.

- **School Committee - Sub-Committee Reports**

Dr. O'Malley advised the budget sub-committee met with administration staff last week, it is an ongoing process. The next Budget Sub-Committee will meet the Monday (February 22nd) before our next school committee meeting.

Dr. Bergen advised that she met with the joint PCC, they are an incredible group of parents who support the schools in that way. Tremendous group of volunteers.

Ms. Sabolinski advised that she has met with the Franklin Education Association and the Trivia Bee is scheduled for April 13. Ms. Sabolinski hopes that the School Committee will put together a team. The theme is Pop Culture.

- School Committee - Liaison Reports

6. New Business: None

7. Adjourn: Dr. Jewell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Scofield

8:53 p.m.

Adjourn:

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Childers

SCAgenda 2-9-16.pdf

Budget2Actual.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1615 summary.pdf

Payroll Warrant #1615.pdf

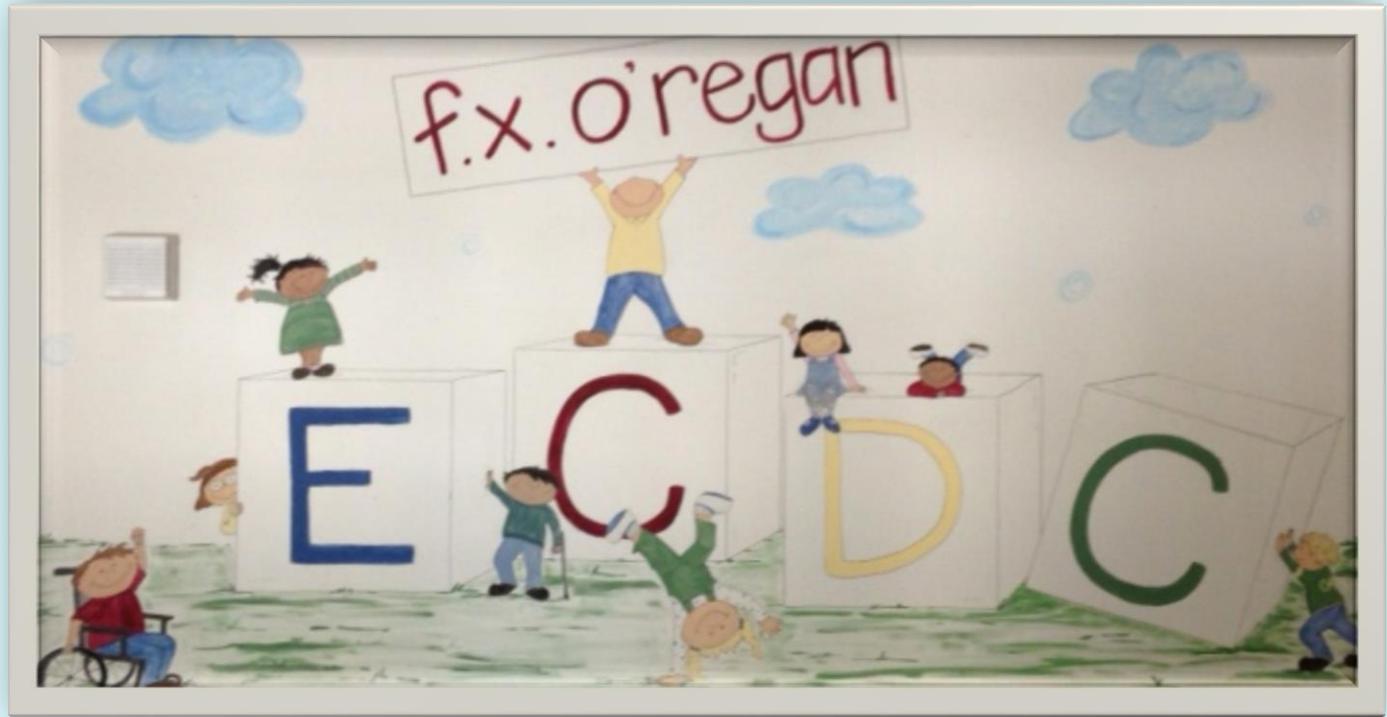
FPS Summary & Sign off.pdf

SCWarrant012816.pdf

January 26, 2016 SCMinutes-DRAFT

ECDC-Strengthening Community-Improving Quality.pdf

ActionA.pdf
ActionB.pdf
ActionC.pdf
ActionD.pdf
Enrollmentcompare-Jan2015-Jan2016.pdf
PledgeStudent



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-

IMPROVING QUALITY

Kelty Kelley, Principal

School Committee Presentation

January 2016

"There is no hand so small that it cannot leave an imprint on the world!" Kulb Kidz

AT ECDC WE VALUE LEARNING THROUGH DISCOVERY!

When You:

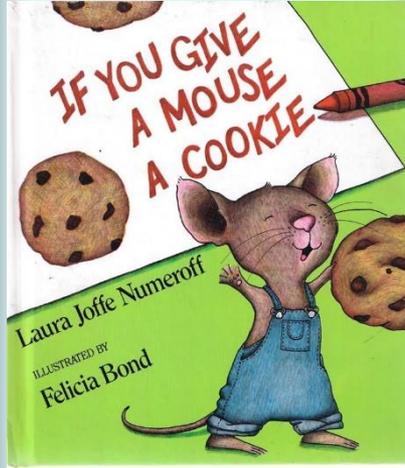
*Cut it for me,
Write it for me,
Open it for me,
Set it up for me,
Draw it for me or
Find it for me,*

All I learn is:

that you do it better than me

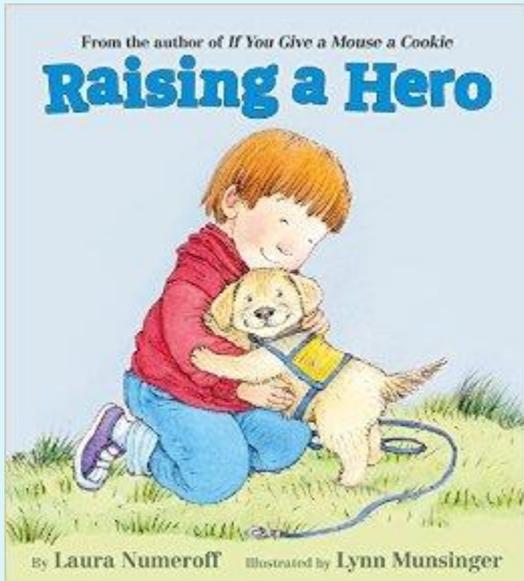


LEARNING THROUGH DISCOVERY





Using movement to get the brain moving and ready to learn!



"I am an illustrator!"

PLANNING FOR 2016-17

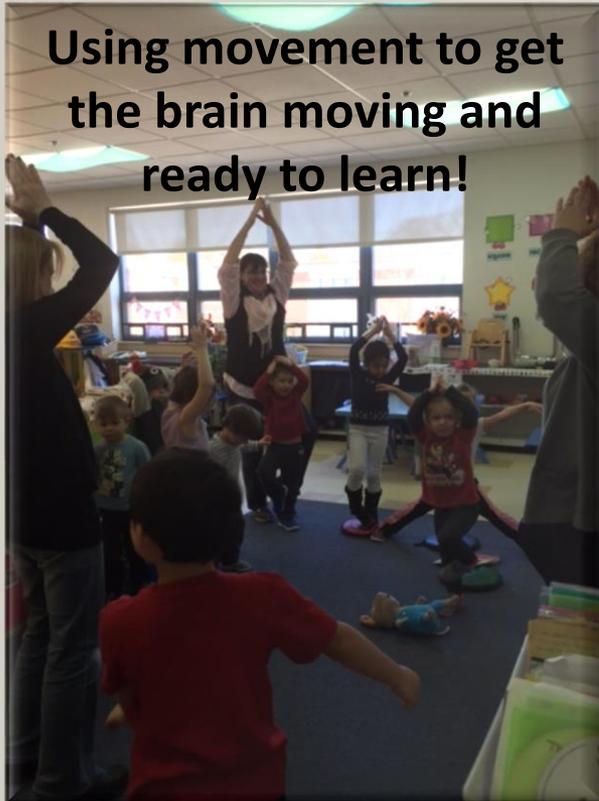
- Considerations for program development:
 - What is working, where are our current challenges?
 - Is our multi-age model still the best way to provide programming?
 - Are we offering enough inclusion for all students?
- Inclusive process
 - Online parent surveys in December/January this year and last year
 - Teacher surveys, google spreadsheets, processing sessions
 - EA Staff Chat option discussions
 - PCC Parent option discussions



EXTENDING TIME IN SCHOOL



Using movement to get the brain moving and ready to learn!

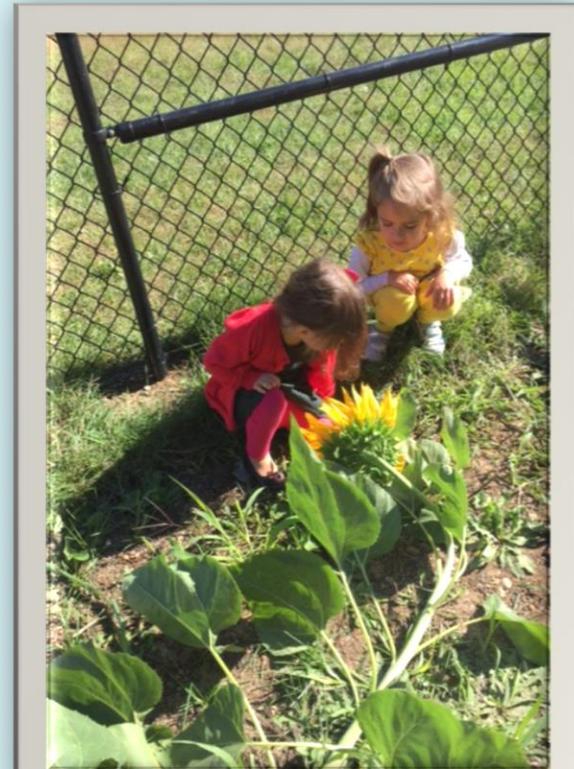


- Eliminating the 2 days, 2.5 hour option
- Shortest program offered will be 3 days, 2.5 hours
- Extended Day (4 hours)
 - Increase opportunity for inclusion time for children with IEPs in the least restrictive environment (from 2.5 to 4 hours)
 - Respond to the needs of families of community peers to have a longer school day
 - Increase time in school, providing time for students to eat lunch in school, can help facilitate the transition to full day kindergarten
 - Longer time in school, allowing time to dig deeper into content and skill development
- Inclusion Summer Program
 - 2-3 week sessions
 - \$50 registration fee per session for students not requiring ESY



PILOT SINGLE AGE GROUPING

- Offering at least one session just for students who are 4 by August 31st
- Teachers believe some students will benefit from same age grouping as it will allow for stronger differentiation within a smaller window of age and developmental levels
- Parent survey was split with about half the families interested in this model
- Mixed Research on value of multi age grouping and of same age groupings
- ***Success of single age pilot is dependent upon the # of community peers who enroll in any given program option***



INCREASING CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



- Increasing all students opportunities to be a part of typical classroom communities!
 - Partnerships between inclusion and sub separate classrooms
 - Each child in our sub separate classroom is paired with an inclusion session
 - Students are supported in the inclusion classroom, some up to 4 hours and 5 days a week!
 - Great success for students!!
 - Wonderful collaboration among teachers and specialists



USING TECHNOLOGY TO HELP INCREASE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND PROVIDE DEEPER STUDENT LEARNING



ECDC professional staff are committed to increasing the use of technology in the classrooms, and in their planning!

- Google Docs
 - All professional staff have participated in basic Google training and Blogger training.
 - Teachers are learning how to link their Google docs to their blogs
 - Teachers are using Google docs for their curriculum unit development and for Team Time meeting minutes and agendas
 - Offered several Google Workshop sessions at the beginning of the year—voluntary, teacher question and problem solving driven agenda



Introducing Technology as Student Learning Tool

- Using iPads –the great equalizer
 - To provide real time answers to questions
 - Used primarily by therapists right now
 - Play games that require social interaction
 - Encourages connections!
- Using projectors for
 - music and movement (dancing with YouTube videos)
 - Using assistive technology devices to give all students a voice





Using Computers to Log Assessment Data

- Teachers are piloting using technology to log assessment data
- Teachers are using pictures and anecdotal notes as solid performance-based assessments
- Teachers are using this data to inform instruction and curriculum planning
- Teachers are discussing this information as a team

Blogging at ECDC

- Each teacher, and the principal have a blog
- Blogs are updated by teachers at least once each thematic unit.
- Blogs allow teachers to share the story of what is happening in the classroom
- Blogs allow parents to peek inside their child's day and to give a starting point for conversations

ECDC has a Twitter Account

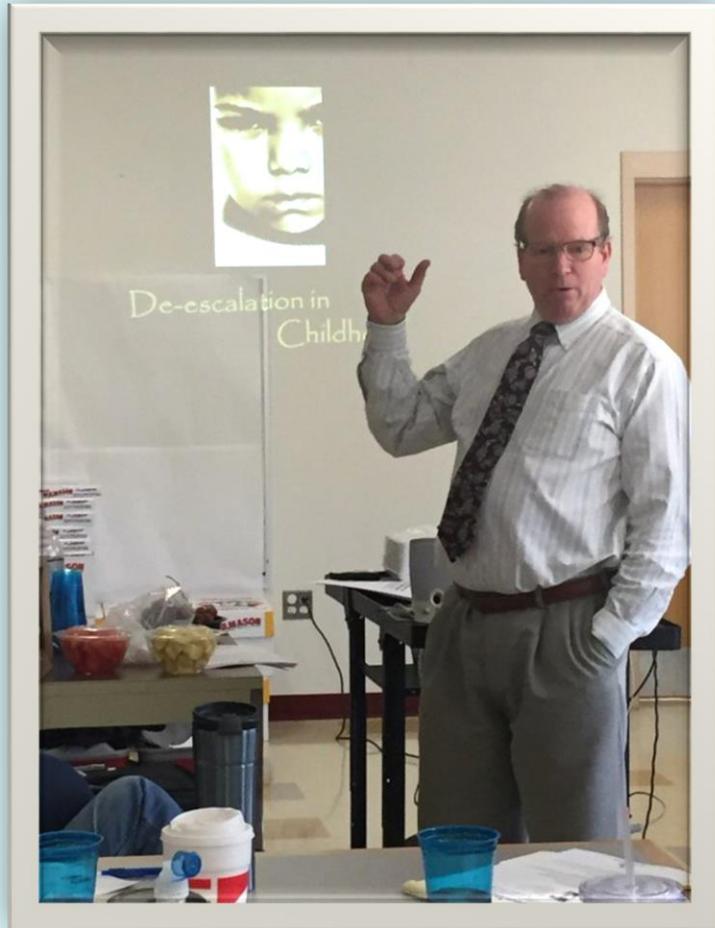
@FranklinECDC

<http://ecdcprincipalpage.blogspot.com/>

<http://ecdcmisselizabeth.blogspot.com/>

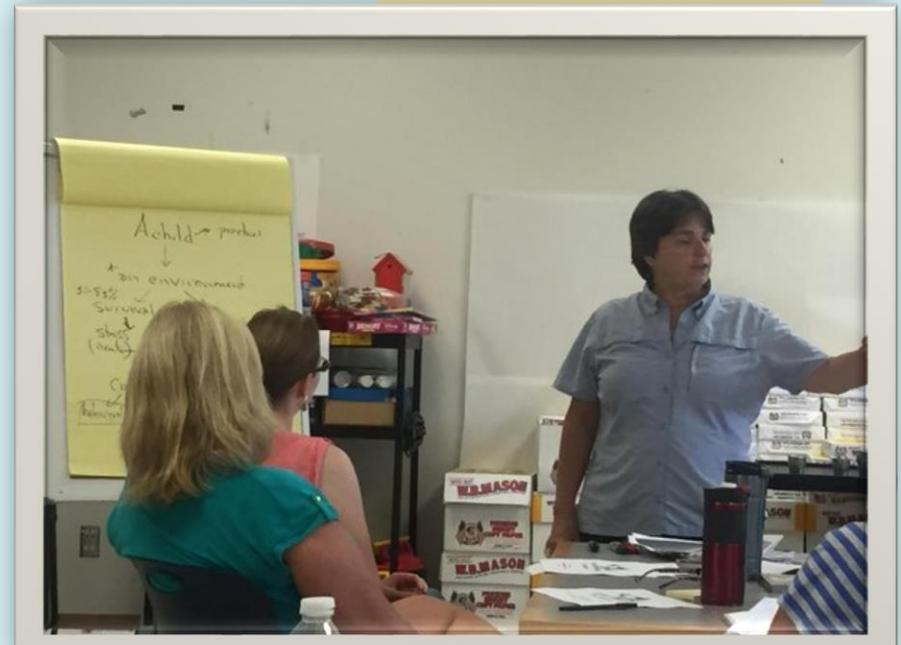
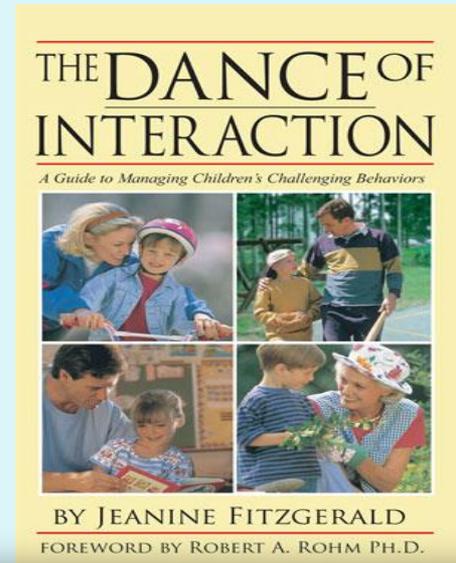


BRINGING IN LEADERS IN THE FIELD TO SUPPORT TEACHERS, EA'S, SPECIALISTS AND FAMILIES



**Scott Noyes,
Empowering Programs**

**Jeanine Fitzgerald,
The Fitzgerald Institute**



BUILDING A COMMUNITY: CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES



Stories and Songs of the American Preschool: A Program for ELL Families



Prep Team: parent volunteers meet and help with prep work



Connections for Parents of Children with Special Needs



Jeanine Fitzgerald: spoke to the role of temperament in behavior management

ECDC NOW ENROLLING FOR 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

