



First 8 Memphis Executive Committee Meeting

Date: May 18, 2021

Time: 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Committee Members Present: Jim Boyd, Kathy Buckman Gibson, Tanya Hart, and Keva Latham

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Carol Johnson Dean

Staff Present: Dr. Kandace Thomas, Ginny Refroe, and LaDora Watkins

Visitors Present: None

Welcome & Introduction

The meeting began at 2:30 pm.

Pre-K Classroom Discussion

First 8 Memphis (F8M) Pre-K program works to ensure that children have the opportunity to engage in programs that support their early care, development and learning. F8M considers many factors when determining which Pre-K Operators to partner with in any given academic year as well as subsequent years; F8M also considers many factors when determining classroom locations. These factors include:

- Help ensure quality classrooms across Memphis and Shelby County communities
- Consider community impact if F8M moved funding to other neighborhoods and communities
- Understand political environment and potential changes
- Analyze community Pre-K needs (using waitlist data, school location data and population changes)

Should F8M decide to remove funding from a community, the Pre-K Review Committee and/or Board of Directors would consider the following action steps:

- Communicate with the community Help public understand F8M's role instituting accountability, performance and Pre-K outcomes

- Work with other Pre-K Operators in said community to ensure classroom needs are met

Considerations for working with Achievement School District

Context: Prior to F8M, ASD had four classrooms (Corning Achievement, Frayser Achievement, Georgian Hills, and Whitney Achievement) as part of the Preschool Development Grant. Those classrooms transitioned to F8M classrooms in the 2019-2020 school year. The district serves students in the 38127 zip code (Frayser Community). Enrollment is currently low which is typical across classrooms this school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Opportunity: ASD serves students and families in the Frayser community, an important Northside Memphis neighborhood. Most of Frayser's Pre-K classrooms are based in charter schools; SCS has few Pre-K classrooms in the neighborhood. ASD partners with charter schools with locations in Frayser these schools including Libertas, Cornerstone, Freedom Prep, Journey, and Memphis Scholars provide data to F8M because they have autonomy.

Challenge: ASD is part of the Tennessee Department of Education, therefore contract negotiations occur with members of the department (including the legal team and information technology team). Without approved data security, TDOE will not provide the needed Pre-K data to F8M. At this time, F8M does not have the following data from ASD: Attendance and enrollment nor IStation data; Brigance, K-readiness, synchronous learning, family support data are all partially submitted to F8M. F8M conducted Continuous Performance Improvement Reviews with ASD throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

The Executive Committee discussed F8M's considerations and analysis for determining Pre-K Operator eligibility for being part of our Pre-K classroom portfolio.

- F8M is not receiving any hard data because ASD is part of the They will not provide student names or birth dates. They are assigned a TN ID which goes into the EIS system. The challenge with this is getting K-Readiness data. Further, it depends on a school level staff person to enter the information into the system to get the TN ID. As Pre-K is not mandatory, creating the TN ID for a Pre-K student is not regularly done.

Recommendations

- Recommend a deadline in order to ensure students and classrooms are funded this school year and consider whether or not F8M will partner with ASD in the 2021-2022 school year

Communicate with neighborhood/community if classroom resources are moved to another community

- Reallocate funds as soon as possible so another Pre-K Operator can plan accordingly

Next Steps

- Set deadline for contract signage to allow F8M to plan for the 2021-2022 school year
- Understand political framework of ASD as part of TDOE Consider reconvening the RFQ Committee to discuss the possibility of putting additional funding in other areas/classrooms with other operator
- Build a formal communications plan to get ahead the final decision.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.