

Polaris at Ebert Collaborative School Committee
Minutes April 4, 2016

1. Call to Order

- Marisa Hudson-Arney - parent (co-chair)
- Jennifer Reynolds - parent
- Michelle Higgins - paraprofessional
- Gail Axt - librarian / teacher
- Catherine Forington - teacher
- Anne Sterrett - principal

2. Parent Representative needed for 2016-17

- Marisa will work with teachers to recruit parents as well as a message in school communications requesting nominations and self-nominations for the slot opening in the fall.
- Goal is to have communication go out in April with a deadline for nominations in May.

3. Incoming Kindergarten and Grades offered at Polaris

- Anne is crafting a letter to incoming kinder families about changes in the district policies for HGT identification.
- Discussions are ongoing at the district level about the structures of Polaris in terms of grades offered for the 2017-18 year
- CSC recommended that Polaris shift in the 2017-18 school year from a Kindergarten classroom to a third grade classroom in order to accommodate the new GT sweeps in Kinder and second across the district. We will recommend this shift in profile at Polaris be communicated when the new location for ADK is clearer.
- It might be best to hold off on widespread communication to parent population until we know more about ADK relocation. Drawbacks to consider (in terms of communication and parent satisfaction):
 1. **two completely different decisions**. A. ADK does not automatically matriculate to 1st grade HGT placement anywhere in the district - as decided by the district b. Polaris offering a third third-grade classroom instead of a kindergarten is a school-based decision based on the new HGT sweeps.
 2. Families who attend ADK in 2016-17 will likely be disappointed

3. It might be tough to fill the classrooms some years (a few children short of a full classroom), the cut off *MIGHT* go down below the 97% cutoff, but the services will be specifically focused on children who *NEED* HGT services. Having to join Polaris at different grades might be a deterrent, rather than joining at Kindergarten.

4. Personnel Update

- The two fifth grade positions have been filled, pending HR approval. Ian Hodges and Kim Rebholtz will be the new fifth grade teachers. The Personnel Committee took great care in choosing. The new fifth grade will be collaborating on redesigning the fifth grade.
- Two new para's are hired through June 3: Lindsey Matson, and Carol Friesen-Johnson.

5. Next Meeting - Monday, May 2

- TBD