

Mākaha P-3 Focus Group Minutes
Wednesday, October 21, 2009
1:15-2:30
Mākaha Elementary Library

Introductions

Attendees:

Susan Adler, UHWO

Annalyn Mesina, Mākaha Elem

Lauren Blum, Mākaha Elem

Sanoe Marfil, Co-facilitator, INPEACE

Deborah Carter, WEEC

Jessica Mishima-Donahue, Mākaha Elem K

LaurieAnn Dunn, Facilitator, INPEACE

Lynn Okamura, Mākaha Elem VP

Shanna Laa, Mākaha Elem K

Mariko Thompson, Mākaha Elem

Danelle Haia, Mākaha Elem K GLC

Jaclyn Willis, Mākaha Elem

Heather Medeiros, HCAP Head Start

Announcements:

- Furlough Friday Rally
Oct 23, 2009 10am-1pm
Contact: Deborah Berger (dberber@thelearningcoalition.org)
www.hawaiieducationmatters.org
- Wai‘anae Early Education Center
\$27.00 a day, drop offs welcome
Call office for age limit

Review of Last Meeting

Portfolio Exchange Protocol:

The group briefly discussed the exchange protocol and shared ideas that came out of other community focus groups. In order to move forward, ECE programs and Mākaha elementary would need to agree to the following:

- Are ECE programs willing to:
 - Have families sign a consent form at the last parent teacher conference?
 - Inventory where each child is going to kindergarten?

- Deliver portfolios to the school that the child will attend?
- Is DOE/Mākaha Elementary willing to:
 - Make copies of relevant assessments in child portfolios as needed (consent form will cover this) for the child's DOE file?
 - Return the portfolio to families at the first kindergarten parent teacher conference?
 - Provide and deliver Kindergarten assessment data on students to the respective ECE programs they attended (so ECE programs can have a sense of how their students are performing in elementary schools)

DOE General Learner Outcomes

A one-page copy of the Kindergarten DOE GLOs was shared with the group. Sanoë shared copies of the Kindergarten Readiness booklet put out by Center on the Family. Many of the GLOs are addressed in a practical and family friendly way in the booklet. Mākaha teachers felt it was a helpful resource for ECE teachers to share with parents and familiarize them with Kindergarten expectations.

GLO Discussion: *Speaking and Listening*, Introduction

Cross-sector Dialogue:

- We continued our discussion of Readiness Skills by reviewing the introduction chapter of Learning to Speak & Listen. Mākaha Elementary and ECE teachers in the group felt that in order to align curriculum, student expectations, and create smooth transitions for children, it was important to discuss:
 - Not the what, but the HOW to practice and incorporate readiness skills.
 - Different expectations depending on age & development.

Other

Other strategies came up throughout the discussion that could enhance collaboration amongst teachers, improve quality of instruction, and reach out to struggling students:

- Site Visits
- Teacher Training on child development & child behavior
- Parent involvement & education

- What can parents do?

Actions for Next Meeting

- Continue to dialogue on kindergarten readiness skills, and the Learning to Speak & Listen handout.
- Announcements
- Next Meeting: December 9, 2009, 1:15-2:45 Mākaha Elementary Library (2nd floor above front office, 2nd door on your left.)