

## Configuration proposal

Now that we are approved for a second track, I have been having numerous discussions around configuration. The topic which kept surfacing was splitting the Ks and 1s. Three configurations were discussed:

- two K/1 mixed grade classrooms (current/default plan)
- one stand alone K and one stand alone 1<sup>st</sup>
- one stand alone K and one stand alone 1<sup>st</sup>, looping (each class has same teacher for both years)

The looping K and 1<sup>st</sup> classrooms was the consensus favorite for these reasons:

- eliminates the curriculum problems: different day lengths; readers vs non-readers; expedition depth due to different day length
- Ks probably spend a bit too much time on academics (due to need of 1<sup>st</sup> graders) and not enough on play, gross motor develop, creativity...
- initial social adjustment for Ks pretty intimidating
- allows 2 teachers in 1<sup>st</sup> classroom during afternoons, freeing up enrichment services of IG and Support Teacher
- continues to allow students two years with teacher

There would be some drawbacks:

- socialization and mentoring of Ks by 1s
- confidence building of 1s as they work with/help Ks
- ability to manipulate classroom makeup (by gender, ELL, SPED, etc...)

Even with the drawbacks, all thought the looping K and 1 classrooms would be more beneficial to students' overall school and socialization experience, and easier/more effective curriculum development and delivery by teachers. To mitigate some of the drawbacks, K/1 interactions would be worked into the program in various ways (buddies, some shared curriculum or activity time, etc...).

Request for Feb 7 meeting: if Board understands outlined arguments and have few questions, proceed with recommendation; if Board is unsure of request and/or needs time to gather information and form decision, table decision until March meeting.

If approved, (while not fully decided) Maya would probably continue with her current Ks into 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the new hire would have all the incoming Ks.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to David, Maya, and/or Elizabeth.