Meeting Minutes
ECSE TASK FORCE
MARCH 9, 2006
1-3 PM
ROOM C350 SH

Attending: Jeff Priess, Linda Saveraid, Louise Raths, Tami Reynolds, Caroline Weisenburger, Don Loe, Peggy Rick, Laura Silverfarb, Kathy Reimensnider, Linda Weber, Mary Hanley, Sharon Duncan, Darcie Steeves, Debra Bowers, Jenifer Robins, Linda Asche, Karen Waters

Welcome:
Superintendent Dr. Debra Bowers introduced Don Loe, retired Director of Special Services for Stillwater school district as facilitator for the task force. Discussion topics were identified as well as next steps.
Don Loe stated he was very impressed by the parent's knowledge and the respectful dialogue at the February 27 school board meeting.

Community Education Introduction
Community Education Director Linda Saveraid explained that all Early Childhood programming goes through Community Education and is in collaboration with Early Childhood Special Education.

Review of Program Enrollment
Special Education Director Tami Reynolds reviewed student enrollment from 2003-2006. She stated a need for ECSE staff to be working at Minnesota State Department of Education recommended caseload and for programs to have openings to serve students as they are identified. A parent asked if is it true that more students will qualify due to a change in state criteria. Tami responded that it is correct specifically in the area of services for children birth to three years old. Staffing must be planned with this in mind.

Review of Current Program Models
Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator Louise Raths read the Early Childhood Special Education Mission Statement. She gave an overview of the early childhood commitments to honor inclusive education, maintaining a strong collaborative with families. She stated the value of the distict's unique family partnerships, use of a comprehensive team approach, collaboration within community-interagency services. She explained the early childhood referral process, and the programs currently available.

Budget Review
Jeff Priess shared financial and student data from MDE website. A discussion with parents ensued regarding data collection methods and budget/accounting codes. Parent Laura Silberfarb shared questions regarding this information and requested further follow-up.

Questions/Concerns to be clarified at next meeting:
•Timelines
•What type of staff are being cut & to what degree?
•How can we make reductions & yet provide a cushion for new students?
•Programs, what will they look like? How many students in a classroom?
•What will be our contingency plan?
•Revenue brought in by ECSE
•Will service be individualized and of high quality as it is now?
•How will we measure outcomes next year to make comparisons?

Follow Up Communication
It was determined that meeting information will be shared by parents in attendance with other ECSE parent groups and the district will post minutes on its website, www.slpschools.org. Minutes will also be sent home with all ECSE students and distributed to all ECSE staff members. Per parent request the next meeting date is dependent upon the availability of Lisa Backer, MDE. Staff will schedule the meeting and notify the task force. In adjourning the meeting, Dr. Bowers reiterated the districts commitment to meeting the needs of all children.