



Douglas Public Schools

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School Committee Agenda Item Summary

Date: April 6, 2022

Prepared By: Tara Sobaleski, Director of Special Education & Student Support Services &
Cortney Keegan, School Business and Operations Manager

Reviewed By: Paul Vieira, Superintendent ✓

Subject: **Preschool- 0.50 FTE ABA & 0.5 FTE Teacher to become 1.0 FTE positions**

Background

Currently, the district has three preschool programs: two four-year-old preschool programs that offer full and half day attendance, and one three-year-old preschool program offering half day preschool services. In addition to the tuition based preschool services these programs provide, they also provide the special education preschool services outlined on the individual service delivery grids of eligible 3-5 year olds IEPs.

The two four-year-old preschool programs are each staffed by 1.0 FTE Teachers and 1.0 FTE ABAs programmatically. The three-year-old preschool program is staffed by a 0.50 FTE Teacher and a 0.50 FTE ABAs programmatically. This does not include additional designated support staff outlined on the individual service delivery grids of our eligible preschoolers.

Discussion/Analysis

The three-year-old preschool program needs to have the flexibility of adding students throughout the school year as students are referred for special education services from early intervention on an ongoing basis as students approach their third birthday. If the student qualifies for special education services as a three year old and it is determined that the student requires preschool services, the district needs to be able to provide these services.

To date, Ms. Socha has 14 nondisabled children pre-registered for the three- year-old preschool program. If all students are accepted to attend, there will be an inadequate number of slots available as students with special needs become eligible for preschool services throughout the school year. Currently, the district is unable to offer full-day preschool programming to three-year-olds. Moving the 0.50 FTE preschool teacher and ABA positions to 1.0 FTE positions will allow the three year old preschool program to service all eligible students and will reduce the need for a waitlist to attend preschool in town. This will allow for am sessions and pm sessions in the three-year-old program.

Financial Impact

The increase for the ABA position will be \$15,944. The increase for the teacher will be \$24,831 plus any additional amount pursuant to the DTA contract.

Recommendation

If the School Committee is in agreement, the following motion is recommended for approval:

MOVE to approve the change in the preschool FTEs servicing 3-year-olds from 0.50 FTE ABA & 0.50 FTE Teacher to 1.0 FTE positions. The funding for the increases of approximately \$41,000, plus increases pursuant to the DTA contract, will be a combination of general fund and the preschool revolving fund.

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