

PALO ALTO & KOSSUTH COUNTIES



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

*PAK Empowerment Board Membership
Meeting with Legislators
November 24th at 12:00pm
at ILCC in Emmetsburg Room 817*

Mission:

- * Provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences for all children age's birth to five.
- * Provide training support to parents and other caregivers of the birth to five populations.
- * Prepare children age birth to five with the skills needed to learn to be ready to take advantage of educational opportunities and learn to the best of their ability.

Board members present: Jack Plathe, Erv Rowlands, Linda Tienter, Ellen Picray, Marc Singer, Nancy Clark

- A. Share with legislators about PAK Empowerment programs – Board members met with Representative Marcella Frevert from 12 to 12:30. Paige shared a chart of Empowerment funded programs and the numbers of families and children we serve. .
- B. Discuss Impact on Community Indicators - The board discussed their concern for the Dibels test being a representative of school readiness in our area. The board shared with her what it measured and the failure to report rural schools with less than 30 kindergarteners. The board shared how presently we have no schools receiving Statewide Voluntary Preschool Funding and the need to keep funding preschool scholarships through Empowerment. Representative Frevert had a question about the number of preschools in the area. Paige presented her a list contained on the budget of the preschools we provide scholarships to and the amount each school receives.
- C. Open Questions and Answers – The board asked Representative Frevert what she has heard about Empowerment funding in response to present state financial needs. She reported that she has heard nothing firm at this point and can only respond with her own speculation. She wanted the board to keep her updated and to communicate with Jack Kibbie as well. As our area is only a part of the area she represents, it would be helpful for us to meet with other Empowerment in her area to speak as one voice and to keep her updated on the issues that impact our area. The board thanked Representative Frevert for taking the time to meet with them.

For board members unable to attend, please call: (515) 295-7784 or email phollinger@aea8.k12.ia.us

* Just a reminder: If you do not register your absence, you will not be considered for any conference calls.