



The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

General Meeting and Issues Forum

Topic:

**Madison School District's Four-Year-Old
Kindergarten: A Progress Report**

Panel of Speakers:

Scott Zimmerman (Director, Department of Early & Extended Learning, Madison Metropolitan School District [MMSD])

Macy Buhler (4K teacher, Sandburg Elementary School, MMSD)

Sarah Dill (Director, Meeting House Nursery School)

When:

Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 7 p.m.

Where:

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall
333 West Main St., Madison, WI

(Free parking in ramp across the street; bring parking voucher to front desk for validation.)

LWVDC Committee Members:

Pamela Rewey, Dorothy Wheeler & Carol Carstensen

For more information call the League of Women Voters of Dane County, 232-9447, or visit the League's website at www.lwvdanecounty.org.

Discussion Questions:

1. From what you know from reading or from observation, how are we doing as early child educators in Dane County? How is 4K working out?
2. Madison has 4K classes in private daycare centers as well in the local elementary schools. What do you see as the positives and negatives of this arrangement?
3. What would you like to see proposed for the future: full-day 4K? Expansion of the half-day program to 3-year-olds? Other?
4. Currently the Dane County League does not have a position about early child education.* Should we have a position that more specifically shows support for early childhood education? Should it be under Social Policy or School Districts?

***Dane County League POSITION related to 4K:**

Social Policy:

D. Human Services – Dane County

2. Services to children providing for:
 - a. early identification of problems and programs for remedial action.
 - b. interventions which seek to meet the needs of the individual child and to minimize out-of-home placements.
 - c. public supported interventions and treatment for eligible children at risk.
 - d. programs available to other children on an ability to pay

Specific information about the Madison school district's 4-year-old Kindergarten can be found by looking at the FAQ's on the district's website:

<https://earlyed.madison.k12.wi.us/files/deel/4K%20Q&A%20Doc%20June%202014.pdf>

Speakers:

Scott Zimmerman works for the Madison Metropolitan School District as the Director for Early and Extended Learning. Scott has a Bachelor and Master degrees from University of Wisconsin Whitewater in special education. He also has a Master degree in Educational Administration and Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Psychology/Special Education and Educational Leadership from the University of Wisconsin -Madison. In the past, Scott has worked as a teacher, program support teacher, assistant director, and university lecturer.

Macy Buhler works as a 4K teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School district at Sandburg Elementary School. Macy has worked as a special education early childhood teacher, a private preschool teacher, a Head Start teacher and she has taught classes at Madison College in early childhood education. Macy has a MS in Education and has over 20 years of experience working with preschool aged children in Dane County.

Sarah Dill works as the director for Meeting House Nursery, which is located at 900 University Bay Drive. Sarah has worked as a preschool teacher and has worked as a director for the last 20 years and she has been involved in the early care and education field for over 30 years as a second grade teacher, a Kindergarten teacher, and a family child care provider. She graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood. She has been on the 4K committee since its inception in 2001.