

NESHAMINY

Full-day kindergarten still up in the air

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When it comes to full-day K, the Neshaminy school board isn't ready to go all the way.

Board members told administrators, during a strategic action committee meeting this week at Samuel Everitt Elementary School in Middletown that they still need more information before they can decide what to do.

The full-day kindergarten program could cost about \$1.38 million to implement in the district's eight elementary schools, according to Jacqueline Rattigan, director of elementary education.

While a committee involving Rattigan, teachers, counselors and other administrators found that the benefits of having such a program would outweigh any costs, the group also realized that space would be tight in schools if the class was added.

That's why Rattigan also proposed the idea of an extended day plan, which would include students who qualify based on certain to-be-determined criteria.

Board members Rick Eccles, Joseph Blasch and Frank Koziol all said that they'd like to keep full-day kindergarten on the table and try to find cost-saving options.

But board members Susan Cummings and Ritchie Webb said they don't think the district can afford the program right now, at least not at every school.

Superintendent Paul Kadri pointed out, though, that if the district can't offer the program to every child, it needs criteria to offer full-day kindergarten to the neediest.

However, parents said it wouldn't be fair to offer the course to needy children only.