

PRE-SCHOOL STAFF MEETING - APRIL 21, 1943

Present: Miss Robbins, Miss Misawa, Miss So, Mr. Rhea, Mr. Anderson.

A great part of the morning was given to attending the Senate Committee hearing on the day care and kindergarten bills. Our discussion started about 10:45. The first point was regarding the schedule for this summer. The following plans were made: Pre-school to close on Thursday, June 10th. Summer school opening on Monday, June 21st and closing on Friday, July 30rd. The annual vacation for pre-school staff to begin on August 2nd and end on August 30rd. The fall opening of school to be on Tuesday, September 7th.

Once again part of the discussion was centered around the matter of gearing our pre-school schedule to that of the public schools or gearing it to suit the need of the entire Settlement program. It was felt that there was a great deal of opportunity in the year-round pre-school schedule to include more of the special features such as one-day outings in the country, picnics at the beach, a family picnic at camp or some other place. The suggestion was brought out that possibly these might come during the Christmas holiday, Easter holiday, and such times in the summer when pre-school was not formally in session as well as occasionally through the normal program of the year.

There was a marked difference of opinion regarding the long vacations for the pre-school staff. With the four-week vacation in August, plus two weeks at Christmas and one week at Easter, the pre-school staff was enjoying a vacation that was not commensurate with that of the entire Settlement staff. Miss Robbins however, felt that due to the intensive work that is done by a teacher and the fact that a teacher's work does not necessarily stop when the day is over makes such demands on a person that these additional vacations are necessary. It was pointed out that pre-school people operate on a six hour day, five days a week, making a total of thirty hours per week, whereas the rest of the staff operates on a seven-hour day, five and a half days a week to a total of forty hours, but more if the situation demands it.

The point was also brought out to continue that vacation schedule for the pre-school staff a clearance would have to be made with the Council of Social Agencies as it is contrary to the policies accepted by them. These are merely mechanical details that would have to be ironed out if we continued such a policy. The real reason offered however, for continuing pre-school during the Christmas and Easter holidays was on the basis that the need is such in this community to care for the children for as much time as possible. The program for these holiday periods could vary from the usual form of schedule into special types of things as mentioned before. No decision was made however, regarding these holiday periods. As to holidays such as Thanksgiving, Lincoln and Washington's Birthdays, etc., would be the same as considered by the entire Settlement.

It was then agreed that we would get together again later to make the decision on the schedule for next year. It has been understood throughout that we would present these plans to the Neighborhood Center Committee for their approval.

It was decided that the work would proceed at once on the development of the playground at the rear of the pre-school building.

own neighborhood who needed the attention first.

The rest of the discussion was on the subject of summer school and vacations. It was felt that the summer school program would be a setup of a period of six weeks. There being eleven weeks in the summer period, the question arose as to what about the other five weeks. Is the pre-school staff to be on vacation? Since the pre-school staff had two weeks vacation at Christmas and one week at Easter time, that would make a total of eight weeks vacation during the year. The pre-school staff felt that was to be accepted as the usual type of procedure regarding schools. However, it was also pointed out that Palama is not a school but a Settlement. We are in a position to do things differently. Due to the lack of time we were unable to continue this discussion. It was decided that we meet again on Wednesday morning, April 21st.

PAUL B. ANDERSON, DIR.