



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: LINSEY JOYCE, RECREATION PROGRAMS MANAGER
RE: AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING UPDATE
DATE: JULY 26, 2022

Summary and Background: On July 12, 2022, the Summit Foundation sent an email to all youth service providers in the community stating, "As you know, we are facing an afterschool crisis in our community and many families are scrambling to find care so that they can work and know their children are safe (and even having fun!)." A task force was created to address the short-term issues and to develop a long-term plan for afterschool care county-wide, and this task force continues to meet to address issues primarily on the north end of the County.

Afterschool programming is not new to the Town of Frisco. Staff from the Recreation Programs and Events Division have been running afterschool, session-based programs for over six years. During the 2021/2022 school year, afterschool care was provided anywhere from 2-4 days/week. Activities included skateboarding, mountain biking, a library program, a Historic Park program, art, Little Vikings Nordic ski program, and SnoEducation (science based education program.) Little Vikings, art, and SnoEducation were taught by third party contractors who were hired to implement the programs. All other programs were planned and implemented by Recreation & Culture Department staff. These programs have traditionally been session-based, meaning they run 1-2 days per week for about 6-8 weeks, and are topic/activity specific.

In addition to the programs offered by the Town of Frisco, Keystone Science School (KSS) had previously offered an afterschool program at Frisco Elementary, the CATCH program. CATCH was a science based program that was offered five days a week with an average of 25 kids/day in attendance at Frisco Elementary during the 2021/2022 school year. In March of 2022, KSS announced that they could no longer provide afterschool care at Frisco Elementary, as well as at all other Summit County elementary schools. KSS was no longer able to staff the program. This abrupt end to the CATCH program has helped contribute to the "afterschool crisis" referenced by the Summit Foundation.

Town of Frisco staff understand the importance of afterschool care in our community and are prepared to run after school programming at Frisco Elementary starting this fall season. Prior to doing so, staff requested a work session with Council to review the issues, the proposed

program, including costs, and to seek Council support for such a program. These details will be reviewed and presented to Council during the July 26 work session.

Analysis: In light of the announcement that the CATCH program was ending at Frisco Elementary, TOF staff discussed possible short term and long term solutions to help provide care for the children that were displaced. The short term solution was opening up 3-4 additional spots in the afterschool programs that were currently running starting in March 2022. These spots filled immediately and ran through the end of the school year. Staff continued to explore the long term solutions and started with a survey to Frisco Elementary School parents. The goal of the survey was to accurately understand the afterschool care needs of Frisco Elementary families. A survey was emailed to Frisco Elementary School parents on June 6, 2022, and 70 parents responded to the following four questions:

- What grade will your child or children be starting in the fall of 2022?
- What days (M-F) do you need afterschool childcare?
- During what months do you foresee needing afterschool care?
- What types of afterschool programs would you like to see your child or children participate in?

A summary of the survey results is attached. Overall, parents are looking for after school care 5 days/week throughout the school year.

The Recreation Programs and Events staff is also small and faces similar staffing challenges to the KSS/CATCH program. Staff consists of two, full time, year round staff and a handful of seasonal, part time staff. These seasonal, part-time staff also help run the no school days Fun Club programming camps.

The Town is prepared to run after school programming starting on August 18, 2022 (first day of elementary school) and running through June 1, 2023 (last day of elementary school). Programming would be consistent, reliable, and fun (of course!) and would run 5 days/week out of Frisco Elementary School or the Nordic Center and Day Lodge, pending the season. The program would be titled Frisco Afterschool Fun Club to keep with the known and positive Fun Club name. At a minimum, the program could take 20 kids/day with the two full-time staff members running the program. The Town would recruit for additional part time staff, with the goal of hiring two, part time winter seasonal staff to then open up additional spots in the program and to alleviate the time commitment on full time staff who are also responsible for running recreation events and other programs.

The session-based afterschool programs previously operated by the Town would, for the most part, no longer operate as session-based programs, but instead would be rolled into the Frisco Afterschool Fun Club program. As an example, instead of running a session-based program of art for 6-8 weeks with a contractor, an art program would be incorporated into the afterschool programming curriculum. The Frisco Afterschool Fun Club program schedule would model the summer programming schedule of daily activities, themes, indoor and outdoor time, and educational opportunities. The one program that would remain as a session-based program would be Little Vikings due to the collaboration with the Summit Nordic Ski Club and the success of this program over the years. If the Town is able to secure staffing, additional session-based programs may be added throughout the year.

Financial Impact: The operational costs of running afterschool programs in 2021 equated to ~\$45,000 as all programs were session-based, contracted programs. This expense included contracted expenses, supplies, and TOF staffing. Total revenues for afterschool programming was ~\$28,300

In order to successfully run an afterschool program for the 2022/2023 school year, additional costs would include two, PT/YR staff at a cost of ~\$23,000, and additional supply costs at an estimated \$15,000. Total expense costs for this afterschool programming would be ~\$60,000, which includes all staff time (\$23k new PT/YR; \$22k FT/YR staff) and supplies (\$15k). The general fund can support these additional expenses.

The total number of afterschool programming days for the 2022/2023 school year is 171 days. Charging families \$15-\$20 per day per child, would result in ~\$41,000-\$62,000 total revenue for the program. The program would come near to covering costs but would still be subsidized by the Town. The Town could also choose to scholarship kids into the program, using the free and reduced lunch program currently in place by the school district.

For reference, CATCH pricing in 2021/2022 was \$0-\$10/day/child. The Town of Breckenridge afterschool pricing was \$10-\$15/day/child in 2021/2022 and is increasing to \$15-\$20/day for the 2022/2023 school year.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Recreation is one of the strategic priorities for Town Council and afterschool childcare provides children the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that provide a safe place for them to be active, learn, and interact with other children.

Core Services is also one of the strategic priorities for Town Council. Providing consistent, attainable, affordable, afterschool childcare is a core service that the Frisco community has expressed a need for. Town of Frisco Programs staff will continue to work closely with parents and community members to address solutions to the “afterschool crisis” that is happening within the community.

Environmental Sustainability: Staff will encourage that program and planning decisions be made based on the best interest of our community and the environment.

Staff Recommendation: Staff acknowledges that providing afterschool care is a priority and are prepared to implement afterschool care for Frisco Elementary students starting on August 18, 2022.

In order to provide consistent and reliable afterschool care, staff recommends offering care Monday – Friday for the 2022/2023 school year. The program would consist of a mix of outdoor sports/activities, educational activities, and art. Dependent on staffing levels, ideally the afterschool program could take 20 kids/day. This number could increase if staffing levels allow. Programs would run from 3:55 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and from 3:05 p.m.-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The next steps would be to open registration for afterschool programs on August 3, 2022, with afterschool programs starting on the first day of school, August 18, 2022. Staff would immediately make a job posting for two additional PT/YR staff to assist with running the programs.

Is Council supportive of this direction?

Approved By:

Diane McBride, Interim Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Afterschool Program Survey Results