

Branford School Readiness Council Meeting
February 15, 2019

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Present: Ginger Vickstrom, Carole Weisberg, Carly Lemire, Anne Adinolfi, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Rachel Kalman, Robin Comey, Diane Pappacoda and Jamie Cosgrove

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion (Robin Comey): to approve minutes from January 18, 2019 as presented.

Seconded: Jaimie Cosgrove

Motion passed

New Council Members

Rachel Kalman and Vanessa Fleming-Redd were welcomed to the Council as our new parent representatives.

School Readiness Updates:

- SR Grant RFP FY 2020 – The grant is due out very soon. We have indicated that Branford could accommodate 5 more SR slots at the BELC should funding become available.
- There is a Statewide SR meeting scheduled for February 20th to discuss grant and to meet Beth Bye, the new Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood. Beth Bye is a former State Senator who has been very involved and supportive of Early Childhood in CT.
- Wait List report: 8 children currently eligible; 13 not yet eligible. Total of 21 on wait list.
- Legislation update: Several bills have been proposed that are just placeholders for further definition and discussion by the legislators and the public:
 - Bill 5577 Proposes to push out degree requirements for ECE Teachers in publicly funded programs to 50% AS Degree /50% BS Degree by 2022; and 100% BS Degree by 2025. (currently it is AS/BS by 2020, BS by 2023).
 - Bill 5592 Proposes to establish a refundable credit against personal income tax for EC Teachers for degree completion. \$2,500 for AS degree and \$5,000 for BS degree.
 - Bill 5072 Proposes to establish a task force to review special education eligibility criteria for preschool-aged children. This is to address a gap in services for children who were in the CT Birth-to-3 system which stops at age 3, and services are interrupted in pre-K, and may not kick in again until kindergarten.
 - Bill 5982 Proposes an act requiring the OEC to cease development of the QRIS for early childhood education programs.

Old Business

SR policy and procedures were presented to the Council for final approval.

Motion (Robin Comey): to approve SR Policy and Procedures as presented.

Seconded: Anne Adinolfi

Motion Passed

Data Tracking has been tabled until next month.

Community Special Projects

The Pre-K Fair at Trinity Church will be on February 23rd from 9:30-12:30. School Readiness will have a table at this event and will give out information regarding School Readiness and we will also be doing a hands on project with the children.

Robin Comey spoke about the Forum that she is trying to put together for 4/27/19. This will be done during the Week of the Young Child. She presented the Council with a proposed budget.

Rachel Kalman suggested using her church, Shoreline Community Church, as the site. Rachel will check with the church to see if it is available. The space will hold 122 people.

Motion (Anne Adinolfi): to adjourn at 10:35

Seconded : Diane Pappacoda

Motion Passed

The next SR meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2019, 9:30 , Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom
Carole Weisberg