

**Branford School Readiness Council
Minutes**

June 21, 2019

RECEIVED

2019 JUL -1 A 9:37

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Ginger Vickstrom, Carole Weisberg, Lauren Skultety, Diane Pappacoda, Jamie Cosgrove, Carly Lemire, Daniele Andrus, and Rachel Kalman

Meeting was called to order by Ginger Vickstrom at 9:35.

Motion (Jaimie Cosgrove): to approve the minutes, as presented, 3/15/19.

Seconded: Rachel Kalman

Motion passed

The Council reviewed the minutes from special meetings dated 4/12/19 and 5/10/19. No action was taken.

School Readiness Liaison Report:

- **SR Grant:** Branford was approved AND awarded 5 additional slots for FY20. The slots will all be allocated to the Branford Early Learning Center (BELC). BELC will now have 10 SR Slots; and the FRC has 11 SR slots for a total of 21.
- **Waitlist:** We have 20 who are eligible on the wait list; and 18 who are not yet eligible.
- **Legislative Update:**
 - SB932- Passed new staff qualification for ECE Teachers are:
 - o CDA +12 credits until July 1 2022
 - o 50% CDA +12cr, 50% Associates, until July 1, 2025
 - o 50% Associates, 50% Bachelors until July 2029
 - o 100% Bachelors after July 2029
 - SB 935- Passed Requires the OEC to create a compensation scale for state funded programs and present to the legislature by Jan 2020
 - SB 936- Passed – Authorizing OEC and includes:
 - o SR Grant is 3 years (was 5 years).
 - o 2nd year of budget increases SR rate by 100 per child per year and that increase must go to staff salaries.
 - HB 2022 Family Medical leave- passed - As of Jan 2021 all in CT will have a ½% payroll tax deducted from their pay. 12 week leave benefits begin 2022
 - HB 7353 An Act Concerning the Provision of Special Education – Passed - established a work group to study issues relating to the provision of special education and related services during the period in which a child is no longer eligible for services provided by the birth-to-three program and is not yet enrolled in kindergarten.
 - HB 5004 – Minimum Wage – incremental increases to \$15 by 2023
- **General Policies updated:** OEC addressed modifications and clarifications of the GP's. They issued a revised/updated Fee Schedule (GP B-01); and modifications to GP B-02 Income Guidance and GP B-05 Quality Assurance. Any changes that

warrant a change in Branford's SR Policies and Procedures Manual will be presented to the SR Council for review.

- **United Way funding** has been offered to Branford SR and ECE providers and educators on "Attachment Theory – a new lens". Barbara Stern, a lead consultant for United Way, has offered to meet with our SR Council and community providers to provide an overview of this training and assess the best format for Branford. Carole will follow-up.

Professional Development

Amanda Evans from FRC has completed the Circle of Security training.

Community Projects

Branford Early Learning Center will be have a Fun Family Day/Tag Sale, on Saturday, June, 29, 2019. There will be vendors, games, ponies.

School Readiness will participate in this event.

Location: BELC

Time:10-4

Family Day will be on the town green, September 15, 2019. School Readiness will have a table at this event.

Feed Branford Kids will be hosting a fund raiser on September 20, 2019. This will be at the Pine Orchard Club. Murder Mystery Event with dinner and silent auction/raffles. Ginger will do up a basket for the silent auction as a donation from the School Readiness Council.

Tickets will be \$100 per person. More information will be on their website.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 am

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom
Carole Weisberg