

**Branford School Readiness Council**  
**July 19, 2019**  
**Minutes**

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

**Present:** Ginger Vickstrom, Diane Pappacoda, Robin Comey, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Michele Krumenacker, Carly Lemire and Carole Weisberg

Meeting was called to order at 9:38 am by Ginger Vickstrom.

Carole Weisberg congratulated Branford Early Learning Center for receiving the award "Best on Shoreline Daycare".

Minutes from the last meeting were not voted on due to lack of a quorum.

**SR Liaison report**

Waitlist Report: 20 eligible children are currently on the wait list. Plus 15 children, who are not-yet-eligible, are on wait list.

QE funding award letter is still outstanding. As soon as the district receives the letter programs can begin to meet with Mary Stone.

Legislative update: Discussed the bills that have passed affecting SR Programs. One in particular lowers the age at which a child in a licensed program can enter the preschool classroom to 2 years 8 months (previously 2.9 years). Parents must request this in writing and program directors must approve before request is honored.

**Professional Development**

Kathleen Higgins, former Principal of Sliney Elementary School, invited Carole Weisberg, Robin Comey and Diane Pappacoda as guests to attend the Seedlings Institute for School Leaders. The seminar topic was: "Emotionally Intelligent Leadership Development" which covered the RULER Approach.

Robin Comey provided an overview to the Council of the program noting the following:

- RULER Program is a systematic long term approach to develop emotional intelligence in adults and children in schools and in homes.
- Includes school staff and administrators – social workers, bus drivers/transportation personnel, nurses, kitchen staff, etc.
- Families are recognized as a critical link to making it work.
- Community approaches around police chiefs, mayor's office, elected officials trained in some cities provides a shared vocabulary and understanding of the approach.
- Typically a three year process in order to implement effectively for long-lasting usage and positive results.

Hamden, Bridgeport and Southington school districts all use this program. Branford has two preschools participating in a double-blind study on its efficacy in preschool. BELC and See Us Grow are part of this study.

### **Community Projects:**

Robin Comey spoke about the Sparkler-Parent Program where ASQ is used. She is waiting to hear if Branford has received this grant. Sparkler is an APP that helps parents identify developmental growth of their children through the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Parents submit their responses and then someone is needed to receive and analyze the results. Parents will not get the results but the Director or Teacher will deliver results and offer guidance. Michele K. reported that she does screening with ASQ and is willing to help Diane P. with screening.

If we are chosen for the grant Robin will call on FRC and BELC for involvement. There is a short turn-around if Branford gets the grant. It has to be up and running in a month and wrapped up in 6 months.

Michele K. reported that she had attended a meeting on "What is Family Engagement" and she will share the resources and strategies learned with the Council.

### **Old Business**

Data Tracking. It was reported that Yvonne Boatman handles data at the BOE. Michele Krumenacker had sent us the data from last year, but it was not received. She will resend. The Council needs to request this data every year so that we can demonstrate progress in SR children and/or identify areas for attention.

Website: Need to find out what the status is of SR having a page on the Branford School website. It was suggested we may also want to set something up on Facebook for Branford SR. Carole will look into this.

Kindergarten Transition: Michele reported that they used to be a Kindergarten Transition Team that met regularly through BECC, and that a KGT Transition Form had been developed. The form, which required parental consent, was a way for preschool teachers to pass on important information regarding a child's development and progress to their kindergarten teachers. Apparently, the form has not been used and it was recommended we revisit creating a KGT Transition Team through the SR Council and looking at ways in which to strengthen and foster a child's transition from preschool to kindergarten.

The Council requested that Dale and Ginger reach out to Hamlet and Jamie to request a meeting before the school year starts.

Carole reported that she will be away on vacation for the next scheduled meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47.