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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

**Branford School Readiness Council Meeting
October 19, 2018**

Present: Diane Pappacoda, Carole Weisberg, Ginger Vickstrom, Lauren Skultety, Anne Adinolfi, Robin Comey, and Jaime Cosgrove. **Guest:** Mary Diamond

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM.

Minutes

Motion (Diane Pappacoda): to approve the minutes from September 21, 2018 as presented. Seconded: Robin Comey motion passed

School Readiness Updates-Liaison Report

- Wait List Report: 10 children on the list are eligible now, and 15 are not yet eligible (too young). Total 25 on list.
- CT DOTS Training part 2 will be on Tuesday, October 23rd.
- Carole reported that she is part of an Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium (ECHEC) where Early Childhood faculty and administrators from two and four year CT schools meet regularly. She shared a new resource published by CT SDE on "*Full, Equal and Equitable Partnerships*" (PDF to be emailed to the council.)
- On September 28th Carole attended the statewide meeting for all state funded programs.
 - Pre-meeting training on use of the ECIS (Early Childhood Information System) - learned how better to navigate the site for reports.
 - Amparo Garcia reported that updated General Policies were in process: B-02 Fees and Family Contribution Guidelines; and B-05 NAEYC Accreditation policy.
 - Andrea Brinnel shared new CT SDE resources available relating to Transitioning to Kindergarten. Carole will email links to these resources to the Council:
 - Early Childhood Landscape Analysis Tool
 - Transitioning to Kindergarten Guidance
 - Early Learning Evidence-Based Practice Guide
 - Workshop presented at meeting on "Ready or Not: Suspension and Expulsion in CT" – impact in Pre-K discussed as well as how specific supports such as coaching, family engagement, TA, ECCP to support adults working with children and SEL training for staff can lessen or prevent suspensions and expulsions.
- On October 18th Carole attended the statewide meeting for SR Liaisons.
 - Deb Flis reported that Monitoring visits are being conducted by the state – came out of Eligibility and Family Fee determination. Visits are no longer than 4 hours and entail classroom observation, fiscal review of process to determine family fee, and document review of sampling of child files. This is not a licensing visit and feedback will be provided to the program and SR Liaison.
 - Deb Adams led discussion of format, content and process of the FY 2020 RFP

- for School Readiness – RFP's should be out by January 2019 (if possible),
- GP B-06 – Inclusion. State will continue to allow programs to apply for annualization of hours for a child with IEP that may be receiving hours of services outside of program.

Old Business

- Policy & Procedure Committee will be meeting on October 29th to continue reviewing our current P & P.
- Vacancy on Council: The Council is in process of interviewing and accepting nominees to fill the parent vacancy slot on the Council.

Committee Reports

- Trunk or Treat will be held on Wed, Oct. 24th, 11 a.m. at Foote Park. School Readiness will be handing out brochures and apples.
- Light the Night will be on the green October 31st. Children can trick or treat at the participating stores in the center. There will be entertainment on the green.

Professional Development

- On Tuesday, October 16th, Craig Bailey from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence presented a workshop at BELC. 42 People attended.
- November 20th, BECC will be presenting "Alive" with a panel person from the Resilience film. The presenter does hands on play therapy with the children and is hoping to partner with Branford to do a pilot program with our PreK students.
- They have a grant from the Branford Community Foundation that will provide the funding for this program.
- Hamlet has requested a proposal from the Council for professional development support. Carole Weisberg will call a meeting that will include Council Co-Chairs, Robin Comey, Diane Pappacoda and Anne Adinolfi. Carole will also invite Michele Krumenacker to be part of this planning session.

New Business

- Data Tracking: Ginger asked that process be set up to follow SR children from preschool to school. Programs are to be submitting names of SR children to Evaun Boatman at BOE for aggregate data analysis on preschool to school progress.

Public Comment

- Mary Diamond said that ECCP (Early Childhood Consultation Partnership) would like to become involved in the Branford community. They serve as a free resource service relating to social emotional issues covering birth - 5. This service is for parents, teachers and directors to support them. They do take referrals through 211.
- A brief service-6 weeks-9 direct hours, are used to observe at site and home if needed. They create an action plan, problem solving and provide 2 support visits to put strategies in place. A meeting will take place one month after this has taken place. If needed they will find community resources to support the families.

- They can also provide classroom service to support social emotional aspects for 12 weeks. She meets with teachers to determine what they want and creates an action plan for the classroom. They make 8 support visits, 2 1/2 - 3 hours each visit.
- If it is preK she can work with up to 2 children. Training for staff is free for this service. They do not diagnose or assess children they only evaluate classroom to support SEL.
- The first Tuesday of the month area directors meet at BELC for an open forum, sharing ideas and problem solving.
- Diane Pappacoda handed out canvas bags for those who wanted them. These bags were donated to her by BYO Branford. A local group that is working to get rid of plastic bags. Meg Kilgore gave a presentation to Diane's students and they were really interested in what Meg had to say. They now call her the turtle lady.

Motion to adjourn 10:35 (Robin Comey). Seconded: Jaimie Cosgrove

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom
Carole Weisberg