

Branford School Readiness
March 16, 2018

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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Dale Izzo, Ginger Vickstrom, Carole Weisberg, Alison Tyliszczak, Michele Krumenacker, Stephanie Linke, Brooke St. Pierre, Anne Adinolfi, Robin Comey, Carley Lemiere

Guests: Sharon Huttner, Diane Pappacoda

Sharon Huttner, an environmentalist, spoke to the Council about her work with others to ban plastic bags at retail stores. Sharon thought it might be fun to have the PreK children involved. Her group is willing to speak to the children about the importance of recycling.

Minutes:

Motion (Alison Tyliszczak): to approve minutes from the meeting held on February 16, 2018. Seconded: Michele Krumenacker Motion passed

Liaison Report:

- Carole Weisberg has posted and the RFP on the ECE a list serve requesting interested parties to apply for School Readiness slots for the 2019 Grant.
- She would also, like to post an RFP for the QE (Quality Enhancement) Grant for 2019.
- Lisa Swain was hired to do professional development around social /emotional learning development. Meetings have been scheduled with Michele Krumenacker and Diane Pappacoda.
- Professional development workshops can be opened to other centers.
- The next Pyramid Training will be held on March 20, 2018, at the Congregational Church. The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2018.
- Wait List has 18 children on the list. Three will be accommodated in September, five are not eligible at this time and ten will remain on the list. Michele K. has 4 children leaving in September.
- Carole has gained access to the ECIS information system and the registry.
- New Bills
HB5450-staff qualifications. This bill proposes changing the Bachelor Degree requirements for lead teachers to an Associate Degree. As of right now the state is not extending the deadline beyond 2021.

New Bill-cont'd

- SB183 will move Kindergarten back into elementary certification. The downside is minimizing Early Childhood college degrees that are not filling so they do not offer them.
- HB 5449 - OEC has included infants and toddlers in their priority. The downside is 2% of the funding comes from current funding and will hurt C4K and School Readiness could also feel the cuts.
- QE for 2019. Carole told the Council what other towns have chosen for their QE grants. The Council has agreed to request QE funds to cover training on DOTS Standards. This is the Documentation Observation Teaching System and it replaces the preschool assessment framework that was used. Carole suggested that the Council also request training on CTEDLS as this is what the DOTS is based on.

Committee Reports:

- Robin Comey told the Council that on April 24th they will be hosting a movie called Resilience at the Fire Department from 6 - 8 pm. Stakeholders will get a post card inviting them to the movie. Clifford Beers will be involved in this event.
- Robin also talked about a local person that would be willing to do training on Mindfulness in the classroom.
- Week of the Young Child will be April 22-28. The book for this year is The Kindness Quilt. BELC will be giving 1 book to each center. Children will create squares representing the book. The squares will be displayed in store windows on Main Street.
- BELC will be working with the Library to "uncover" Branford to include interesting facts, what we love about Branford, kids "uncover" kindness.
- East Shore Health Dept. will be having a NARCON workshop. Alison Tyliszczak has more information on this workshop.

New Business:

- Tabled until next month: Conflict of Interest form and single SR Application for Enrollment. Dale will send these out prior to our next meeting on April 13, 2018.
- Motion (Michele Krumenacker); To write QE Grant to pursue CTELDS and DOTS training for 2019. Seconded: Stephanie Linke Motion passed
- Carole is sending Robin a copy of the RFP for her to put on her list serv.
- Michele K. has asked Carole to discuss with Andrea Brinnel about paying for wrap around services for 4 year olds that attend the Public School Pre-K classes.
- RFP for programs is due back on April 20th. RFP for QE Grant is due back April 6th.
- Grant is due May 15. This includes QE portion of the grant.

By-laws:

- Motion (Robin Comey): To accept new By-laws as presented.
Seconded: Anne Adinolfi Motion Passed
- Dale told the Council that the Recreation Department will be holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd, Foote Park at 11 am. There will be a peanut free area.

Motion (Alison Tyliszczak): to adjourn at 10:58.

Seconded: Carley Lemiere Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Vickstrom