

School Readiness Meeting Notes
Branford Community House
46 Church Street
April 2, 2025

Council Members Present are in Bold: Dale Izzo, Robin Comey, Dr. Chris Tranberg, James Cosgrove, Rachael Kalman, Ariana Loyola, Diane Pappacoda, Carole Weisberg, Charles Cicarella, Lauren Skultety, Laura Gunneson. Present via Zoom: **Erin Casey-Hearn, Deidre Popkin**
Guest: Catherine (Cat) Bencivengo, BELC Asst. Director

The Meeting was called to order by SR Chair, Dale Izzo at 1:05 PM

SR Liaison report:

- Early Start CT –
 - Carole reported that there is funding available for the BSR Council to plan for transition to a Local Governance Partnership (LGP) of up to \$5,000. The RFP was provided for review.
 - Carole received a proposal from ACES in Hamden prior to the meeting to be consultants to the BSR Council utilizing these funds, should we receive them. This was provided as well.
- The council discussed the transition to becoming a Local Governance Partnership (LGP) for early childhood education in Brantford. They have until May 30th to decide whether to become the LGP, with options to apply as Brantford alone or explore partnerships with neighboring communities.

Program Reports:

- BELC – Ari reported that they will be hosting a community discussion with CT State Legislators including Robin Comey, on legislation that is currently being proposed in CT regarding children and families. It will be on April 10th.
- FRC – Lauren reported that they are currently focused on enrollment for next fiscal year. Many children are entering kindergarten and looking at other choices in the schools for full day preschool.

Old Business:

Planning for the Early Childhood Fair – April 5th. Laura reported for the committee. Everything is all set and coming together nicely. From 9-10am we'll have the free pancake breakfast. Ariana reported that she has a special guest coming (Cinderella). The Photo Booth will be set up from 10am-11:30. We have commitments from area ECE programs and community partners as well as music by Michelle Urban and our strolling guitarist, Robert Messori. Ann Bickell will be providing hands-on activities with children and the Lion's Club will provide vision screening for children and we'll have a fire truck, town vehicles and the National Guard outside for children.

It should be a wonderful day for families.

New Business:

- The SR Council decided to apply for the full amount of the grant and seek a consultant to work with the council and community groups as a facilitator. The consensus was that there is a lot of expertise on the SR Council. The council will consider the changing roles, including the addition of parent ambassadors, and the need to determine the new structure and responsibilities. Dale expresses a preference for Brantford to proceed independently but remains open to exploring regional options.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.