

**School Readiness Meeting Notes
Branford Community House
46 Church Street**

April 30, 2025

Council Members Present are in Bold: **Dale Izzo**, Dr. Chris Tranberg, **James Cosgrove**, Erin Casey-Hearn, Rachael Kalman, Diane Pappacoda, **Carole Weisberg**, Charles Cicarella, Laura Gunneson.

Present via Zoom: **Robin Comey, Ariana Loyola, Lauren Skultety, Deidre Popkin,**

Guest: Pam DeMaio, FRC SACC Administrator

Dale called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. We have Dale, Carole and James Cosgrove attending in person, and attending via zoom are Robin, Ariana, Lauren and Pam DeMaio.

Liaison Report:

- **LGP Planning Committee:** The SR Council established a LGP Planning committee that is comprised of Laura Gunnison, Erin Hearn, Lauren, Ariana and Robin. The committee is scheduled to meet on Monday at 1pm via Zoom. Our focus will be on moving forward with activities and steps we want to have in place for Branford's SR Council to apply to be the LGP. Activities will include involving stakeholders in the community comprised of families, providers and community organizations. We will be brainstorming who we want to invite to the table right away.
- **LGP – Branford on its own or Regional:** Carole provided an update on whether Branford will be able to apply as the LGP on its own, or must it seek to be part of a regional LGP:
 - Yes. We can certainly apply on our own. Carole reached out to Elena Truesworthy, Deputy Commissioner of OEC, and Michelle Doucette-Cunningham, Executive Director of CTNYC. These are the definitive people in the state who can answer the question. Both assured us that Branford can apply on its own. The town has a well-functioning SR Council and has had an LECC in the past so that's also a plus. It has always been stated that SR Councils can apply to be the LGP.
 - A question was raised wondering if OEC would assign another community to us? That is unknown, but would be fine if they do, as it would probably also bring dollars with it if they did, because a percentage of their state-funded slots would increase funding of the LGP.
 - We still do not know exactly how much money the LGP for Branford will be getting for administration/staffing. Hopefully that information will be received soon.

- More information is going to be out shortly about how to apply. The application is going to be a form letter and will need to be signed by the fiduciary (Branford BOE), Superintendent, Town Official and SR Council Chair and Liaison.
- It was asked if the LGP's would be responsible for quality indicators as the SR Council has been before. Carole reported that CTNYC is creating a handbook for LGPs on guidelines for best practices. Which will be very helpful. The Liaison will be instrumental in working with the programs on best practices.
- **State-wide Intermediary for Early Start CT.**
 - The big news is that the intermediary for Early Start Connecticut funded programs and LGP's has been announced. It will be Shine Early Learning. They are a national organization with headquarters in New York City. Apparently they had been chosen through a competitive bidding process, and are currently working with 33 states.

Program updates:

BELC: Ariana reported the following:

- We'll be doing The Great Give campaign next week. May 7th to May 8th
- We are planning Teacher. Appreciation activities.
- We have a flower sale fundraiser that we've been putting out to the community and our parents.
- We're pretty good with enrollment. We're working on finalizing all registration for next school year.
- 16 children are moving up to Kindergarten next year.

FRC – Lauren reported:

- We have 9 kids moving up to kindergarten. We are working hard to fill our classroom for next year. We pretty much have a full lit roster now.
- There's been some transition between the full day pre-k in the public school programs and the FRC. We did reach out to some families that financially would benefit from FRC as opposed to the full day Pre. K.
- We've got staff appreciation next week which will involve the whole building doing that together.

Community Reports:

Dale reported that Earth Day events at Foote Park were a success and noted that brought her kids down, and they were able to plant a tree, water the tree, put dirt on the tree.

Davie trees does garden type of plantings might be able to do something closer to the FRC building which is something to think about for next year.

Old Business: None

Meeting adjourned 1:30PM