

Branford School Readiness Council Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

October 15, 2021

**Council Members Present are in Bold: Dale Izzo, Carole Weisberg, Carly Lemire, Robin Comey, James Cosgrove, Diane Pappacoda, Stephanie Linke, Rachel Kalman, Lauren Skultery, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Charles Cicarella, Kim Cellini (New FRC Director), Erin Hearn,**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by Chair Dale Izzo

**1. Approval of meeting minutes:**

A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes from 09/17/2021

1<sup>st</sup>: Vanessa Felming-Redd      2<sup>nd</sup>: Diane Pappacoda      motion carries

**2. SR Liaison Report:**

Carole has met with each site regarding the quality enhancement part of the grant. There is a state wide liaison meeting scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> that she will be attending. Carole explained the difference between priority and competitive grantees and that Branford falls under the competitive school readiness grant. New this year, a group of competitive SR Liaisons will be meeting regularly during the year among themselves to support their work. She reviewed the latest OEC memo around vaccinations for childcare programs and staff requirements.

Dale and Carole met via Zoom with Tim Dzurilla, who is the Intern director for BECC, to talk about school readiness and the council's role in the community. He stated that BECC is conducting a community assessment to see what the needs are for Branford.

**3. Program Site Updates:**

**FRC:** Kim reported that they are in the process of hiring a full time lead teacher and interviews will be taking place next week. They also have an intern starting next month. Their program is currently full. They have 18 students, 3 on the waitlist that are age eligible. They are currently closing @ 4:30 to support the custodians cleaning the building. She reported that they are starting a Parent Advisory Board with the theme of "We Are One Campus". All is going well and Kim is becoming more familiar with her new role.

**BELC:** Diane reported that they are full for SR slots. Currently she has 49 students and will continue to hold this number of students due to COVID. Max capacity is 70 students. There is a waitlist of 80 students and 6 are eligible for SR. The students and teachers are all doing great. They continue to be on a modified day, so that they can support time for cleaning. There are no COVID cases to date to report.

**4. School/Community Reports:**

Dale reported that the Parks and Recreation will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on October 28<sup>th</sup> in their parking lot. She will distribute fliers to each site.

East Shore District Health reported and explained their Nurturing Families Programs and that currently 90% of the visits are via ZOOM. They have met with families in parks, backyards and on front porches.

**5. Old Business:**

**A. Council Vacancies:** The council continues to do outreach for new members. We have put out some feelers to fill the work force seats through the Adult Ed Program

**6. New Business:** none

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup>: James Cosgrove                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Vanessa Fleming-Redd

Motion carries

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM

The next SR Council Meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>.