

School Readiness Meeting Notes
6/7/2023 @ 1PM
Via ZOOM

Council Members Present are in Bold: Dale Izzo, Robin Comey, James Cosgrove, **Erin Hearn, Diane Pappacoda**, Lauren Skultery, Vanessa Fleming-Redd, **Deidre Popkin**, Rachel Kalman, **Isa Bolotin**, Kaliuha Spears-Burgess, Charles Vanessa Fleming-Redd, Cicarella, **Ariana Loyola** and **Carole Weisberg**

The meeting was called to order by Carole Weisberg at 1:05PM. Meeting recorded with agreement from all present.

1. De moved and Ariana 2nd – Meeting Minutes of 5/3/2023 approved by all.
2. SR Liaison Report
 - Carole reported that she has not yet gotten notification of the FY 2024 SR grant approval. Hopefully, we will hear soon.
 - All FY23 invoices have been submitted to wrap-up current grant year.
 - The Enrollment Grant application for the 4th Quarter (April – June 2023) is now available and must be submitted by July 14th.
 - Carole, Diane and Ariana held a wrap-up meeting with the QE Consultant, Karen Gra. Carole summarized services rendered and discussed focus for next year which will be on ELDS, learning scenarios/play sessions and observational transition to kindergarten domains including cognition, play, gross motor, language/literacy and social-emotional learning. The directors asked for coaching staff on involving children in planning and creating “prop” boxes. A staff professional development workshop is scheduled in August. We also asked for a parent workshop on promoting executive function skills.
 - Legislative update: \$53 million in COLA funds allotted for private state-funded programs will continue through FY2024 and 2025. \$35 million is going into Care 4 Kids from unspent ARPA funds. No increase in SR reimbursement this year. In FY25 the reimbursement rate will increase to \$10,500 per child.
3. Program Site Reports:
 - FRC: Ariana reported they are currently at full capacity and maintain the ratio of 60/40% of families at or below 75% SMI. They are enrolling for next school year and have about three slots left to fill for next year. Ariana also reported that the family educator Nicole Burk is back after taking a leave of absence.
 - BELC: Diane reported they are totally full and all are doing well. They maintain a large waiting list.
 - Kindergarten transition: Kindergarten orientation happened last Wednesday. It went really well. Diane reported that they do kgt. Transition activities every month beginning in January.

4. School/Community Reports:
 - BELC children will be performing on the Green at the Branford Festival on Saturday, June 10th at 9am. The whole school will be doing something together. Information on the festival can be found on the Branford Town website.
 - Diane reported that they have lots of clothes, shoes, jackets, etc. available for children sizes 0-6. This is an effort in cooperation with the Shoreline Children's Exchange. They have regular drop off dates and collection times. Contact Diane for more information or if you have specific clothing needs.

5. Old Business: Proposal to amend residency requirements for school readiness families to allow flexibility to accept non-residents if slots are not filled by residents who are priority.
 - Carole reported that she had asked other liaisons in competitive school readiness districts and found that one accepts non-residents for their peer inclusive program, others stated priority is given to residents of the town, and although rare, do accept non-residents if slots aren't filled.
 - Diane moved and De 2nd – all approved to amend the residency policy as follows:

Branford School Readiness Residency Requirements; Children and families who are residents of the Town of Branford are given priority before accepting enrollment of non-resident children.

6. Public Comment – none

7. New Business: none

8. Meeting Adjourned. Ariana moved and De 2nd: Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

9. Next meeting is August 16th, 1PM