

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Adult Education Center, 369 Washington Boulevard

Council Members Present:

Brennan, Karen	Stamford Discovery, United Way of Western CT
Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
D’Luc, Imelda	Stamford Head Start
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Glenn, Shelia	ROSCCO Agency
Hallssey, Jennifer	United Way of Western CT
Morrow, Polly	Pitney Bowes/Parent Representative
Mullett, Alisha	SoundWaters
Rauh, Polly	Stamford Board of Education
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Torres, Dennis	Family Centers

Advisors:

Ahuja, Sonja	Discovery Community Liaison, Graustein Memorial Fund
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers
Tarantino, Sherry	Sacred Heart School

Guests:

Coakley, Julie	CES
Francisovich, Linda	Grossman Family Foundation
Nizzardo, Paula	CES

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jennienne Burke, the School Readiness Council’s interim chair welcomed everyone and thanked Maritza Garcia and the Adult Education Center for hosting today’s meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 2012 Meeting

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the February meeting.

III. Announcements

- Carol Sargent shared that as part of the obesity grant CLC received earlier this year, parents are participating in an education program where they choose a vegetable to bring home and try. Later in the month, they’ll come back and report on how they used it.
- Imelda D’Luc thanked everyone who helped with the Federal Review of the Head Start program.

- Michele Sabia distributed program information on the Stamford Public Schools' new summer program for children entering Kindergarten who have not previously gone to preschool. The *Kindergarten Summer Start Program* will be held from 9:00-12:00 at Hart Elementary School from July 2-27 (no school on July 4). Flyers and registration forms will be sent to the Council electronically. Should all 72 spaces not be filled, the Board is considering opening the program to children who could benefit from additional school before entering Kindergarten.
- Jennienne Burke shared that Care to Care recently held two workshops. The first was a hands on early literacy workshop for home daycare providers. The second was for All Our Kin providers and private providers around the early learning guidelines.

IV. CES School Readiness Reports

As the Council knows, monitoring is required of all School Readiness sites. Reports from Julie Coakley and Paula Nizzardo are included as Addendums to these minutes and were summarized at the meeting. At last month's meeting, Michele shared rubrics developed rubrics to clearly examine the criteria they are looking for when assessing classrooms and lesson plans. These more detailed reports allow for immediate feedback to be given to the teachers and technical assistance to then be planned. Importantly, Stamford teachers have been very responsive to this new format and have embraced learning about what they can be doing better. This speaks to the wonderful climate in Stamford.

V. Regular Reports

- Reports from Sacred Heart and CLC were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included here as Addendums to this report.
- The Health and Wellness Committee announced that on Tuesday, February 7, Dr. Donald Case was recognized as the 2012 Stamford Oral Health Champion with a small ceremony in the lobby of Government Center. This is part of the work of the Stamford Oral Health Collaborative, a group the Health and Wellness Committee helped restart in 2011.
- The Education Committee is moving forward with its professional development focus group study work.
- The Parent Outreach Committee is meeting on March 22 to begin planning for the Early Childhood Fair on May 19.

VI. Old Business

Jennienne reported that she, Michele Sabia, Jennifer Hallissey, and Karen Brennan met with Mayor Pavia to discuss the transition and hiring Bridget's replacement. The Mayor asked for a needs assessment (which the Executive Committee is working on) and promised to share the draft job description with us.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11 at the UConn Stamford.

Addendum A: Sacred Heart Report, February 2012

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 49 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 18
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-16
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15 (parents returned to India due to immigration issues)
- All 20 School Readiness slots are full.

Program Attendance:

- Children – 95% Colds, ear infections, fevers, stomach flu
- Staff – 90% Colds, sinus Infections, personal emergencies

Staffing:

- No changes during the month of February 2012.

Activities & Events:

- SHS continued with Catholic Schools Week by hosting a Pajama & Pancake Breakfast. Many parents volunteered to help out with the morning's festivities!
- In conjunction with the Pajama and Pancake Breakfast, we held a Children's Pajama and Book Drive. Many of our parents donated "new" PJ's and preschool books. The donations were given to St. Joseph's Parenting Center at St. Mary's Church. The Director, Maureen O'Connor was grateful to receive these wonderful donations.
- We ended our week by hosting a Teddy Bear Picnic with songs and stories!
- SHS held our annual Dental Health Awareness Day on 2/7. Our dental hygienist from the Stamford Health Department came in to teach the importance of brushing and flossing teeth. Each child received a new toothbrush.
- SHS celebrated Valentine's Day with "healthy" snacks and lunch! We also held a "heart" awareness day called "Go Red for Women Day". We sold "red dress" pins to many of our parents. All proceeds were donated to the American Heart Association.
- Our two Pre-K 4 Classrooms were observed by Paula Nizzardo from CES on 2/15. This observation is part of a monitoring tool in conjunction with the Stamford School Readiness Program to ensure proper use of Learning Experience Plans within the classroom and school day. She met with each teaching team to discuss strengths, progress and goals. Mrs. Nizzardo has recommended that technical assistance will be offered in the coming months. Dates are currently being worked out.
- The Director is currently attending a series of workshops and training:
 1. Norwalk Early Childhood Education and Care has offered a series of three Forums held at NCC. The classes will run for the next few months.
 2. The Stamford Directors' Group is also offering discussion groups in conjunction with the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership/Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Ctr. Ellen Swan and Betsy Perry are the facilitator's. Six sessions are offered to help empower and enhance preschool programs in lower Fairfield County.
- The Director was a guest speaker at a Leadership & Administration Class at NCC on 2/25. The presentation was about "How to give a Workshop for Parents and/or Staff".

Addendum B: Childcare Learning Centers Report, February 2012

- Program Utilization:
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 126; 4 year olds – 359; 5 year olds - 57
 - c. Children with disabilities = 19 with IEP
3 without IEP

 - d. Notes and Trends: N/A

- Program Attendance:
 - a. 99% Attendance.
 - b. Notes and trends: - none

- Staffing:
 - a. Open Positions – 1 Assistant Teacher in Cluster D, Head teacher Cluster B, Teacher-Cluster B
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
 - c. Training:
 - Bi-weekly meetings occurring on NAEYC Standards – Feb 2nd and 16th
 - Instructional Coordinators meet weekly with each classroom to review Learning Experience Plans
 - Training Wheels- February 6th
 - Cog. 10 – Supporting Literacy Through Read Aloud – Presented by Julie Coakley, Michele Sabia, and Instructional Coordinators

- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - Parent Advisory Committee meeting occurred on February 14th.
 - Student Support Team is meeting bi-weekly to discuss any children with concerns.
 - Vision Screenings have identified several children needing glasses.
 - Hearing Screenings continued for make-up screenings.
 - Lunch and Learn – “Dental Health” presented by Dr. Cortez – February 8th.
 - Cluster B – field trip to Stamford High Preschool Lab-February 10th.
 - Cluster C – field trip to Stamford High Preschool Lab – February 7th.
 - Captain 5 a Day – Cluster A and D – February 24th.
 - Katie Olson, Bd. Of Ed. Social Worker conducting Parenting Support Groups on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00. Parents with children that have social skill concern have been attending for strategies/support.
 - Notes and trends- N/A