

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Ferguson Library, Main Branch, One Public Library Plaza

Council Members Present:

Brennan, Karen	Stamford Discovery, United Way of Western CT
Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
Cook, Lucia	Literacy Volunteers of Stamford/Greenwich
D'Luc, Imelda	Stamford Head Start
Farrell, Anne	UConn Stamford
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Fox, Bridget	Chair, Stamford School Readiness Council
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Glenn, Shelia	ROSCCO Agency
Hallsisey, Jennifer	United Way of Western CT
Lapine, Jennifer	CLC Leadership Council
Morrow, Polly	Pitney Bowes/Parent Representative
Rauh, Polly	Stamford Board of Education
Reardon, Ellen	Stamford Museum and Nature Center
Rigano, Sue	Stamford Public Education Foundation
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sanders, Michael	Stillmeadow Elementary School
Sandhal, Margo	Stamford Public Schools (Instructional Coordinator)
Ward, Caroline	Ferguson Library
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School

Advisors:

Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Childcare Learning Centers
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers
Tarantino, Sherry	Sacred Heart School

Guests:

Ahuja, Sonja	Liaison, Graustein Memorial Fund
Hickley, Julie	Bright Horizons at High Ridge Park
Horak, Catalina	Neighbors Link Stamford
Ostuw, Cathy	Neighbors Link Stamford

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bridget Fox welcomed everyone to the Ferguson Library and thanked Caroline Ward for their hospitality. Bridget then welcomed our guests from Neighbors Link and new member Sue Rigano from the Stamford Public Education Foundation. She also reminded Council members to send in their bios for the web site. Pictures and bios will be online by the next meeting.

Council members introduced themselves and made brief announcements of upcoming events or concerns related to their organizations. Bridget will continue to share program flyers and e-mails with the Council so please continue to share things with her.

II. Announcements

- Bridget summarized her work to date on the Quality Enhancement Application which is due to the State this month. Stamford will be applying to fund the part-time Nurse Practitioner position at the William Pitt Child Development Center and Jennienne Burke's position at Family Centers which provides outreach and training to kith and kin and family home day care providers.
- Plans are underway for the November 18th benefit concert at the Ferguson Library featuring the Swingset Mamas. In addition to individual ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities, VIP packages are being sold and will once again feature a pre-concert pizza party with the band. Anne Farrell helped secure space at UConn Stamford for the party. Posters and flyers were distributed to the Council.
- Proceeds from the concert will help fund the December 8 performance of *Goodnight Moon* at the Palace Theater. We plan to take all CLC and Sacred Heart children to the 10:00 a.m. show.

III. Regular Reports

- Reports from Sacred Heart and CLC were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included as Addendums to this report.
- The Health & Wellness Committee is focused on oral health this month and will bring the Oral Health Collaborative together in mid-October.
- This year the Education Committee's efforts will be focused on professional development. With the help of an Honors Scholar, they will be conducting a series of focus groups with early childhood educators (in an attempt to learn their needs and preferences) and are working collaboratively (UConn, NCC, the School Readiness Council) to cosponsor a major professional development activity in the fall of 2012.
- The Parent Outreach Committee is directing their efforts towards helping to promote and support the Swingset Mamas performance on November 18.

IV. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

V. New Business

Catalina Samper-Horak and Cathy Ostuw from Neighbors Link Stamford came to share more about what their new organization—an affiliate of Neighbors Link, a successful 10-year-old nonprofit organization in Mount Kisco, NY—does. Neighbors Link has developed a strategic plan to replicate its mission and successful programs in other interested communities.

Stamford is honored to be the inaugural partner in Connecticut for this endeavor. While their name and programs will be similar to Mount Kisco's, Neighbors Link Stamford will be led and operated by members of the greater Stamford community.

Neighbors Link Stamford provides a comprehensive resource center for recent immigrants in the Stamford area. Their mission is to strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of recent immigrants. Their strategy: Educate, Empower, and Employ.

The need is clear: 37% of Stamford residents are foreign born. Of that group, 325 entered the US after 2000, and almost half of them speak a language other than English at home. These individuals and families face daily challenges including English language mastery; access to jobs and job training; increased educational opportunities; and community and school engagement.

Neighbors Link Stamford offers a variety of programs to help new immigrants successfully integrate into their community:

- English as a Second Language
- Job Skills Training
- Computer Skills Training
- Leadership Training
- Entrepreneurial Development
- Recreation and Community-Building
- Personal and vocational enhancement
- Employment Referrals (Hiring Site and Job Bank)
- After-school tutoring
- On-site help and referrals for personal and family issues such as housing and homelessness, medical and mental health, family budgeting, taxpayer identification numbers, non-payment of wages, alcoholism, domestic violence, immigration issues and other critical concerns.

More than 60 volunteers work to make Neighbors Link Stamford a welcoming community center for immigrants. They represent social service organizations, faith communities, and government entities, as well as committed community members.

To learn more, you can visit www.neighborslinkstamford.org and/or you can join their e-mail blast by e-mailing info@neighborslinkstamford.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9
at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center.**

Addendum A: Sacred Heart Report

School Readiness Council Report Sacred Heart School October 2011

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 46 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 17
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-14
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15
- All 20 School Readiness slots have been filled.

Program Attendance:

- Children - 100%
- Staff – 90%
- Starting with colds and stomach flu

Staffing:

- No changes as of August 2011

Activities & Events:

- Our After School Program started on 9/19. We usually have 12 – 15 children using the program.
- On 9/26, Paula Nizzardo came to monitoring for School Readiness. She observed both Pre-K 4 classrooms and was able to sit with each teaching team to give feedback about the observation.
- On 9/28, SHS hosted an AFP meeting for Directors/Administrators for NAEYC accreditation and re-accreditation.
- On 9/29, all Head Teachers and the Director attended Diocesan training for the CCSS that will be implemented in 2014 throughout the United States.
- The Director attended a School Board Advisory Dinner at the Catholic Center on 9/29 with Bishop William Lori.
- SHS is currently waiting for our NAEYC accreditation visit. We received our letter confirming that we have been accepted as a candidate for NAEYC Accreditation. We should expect a visit between now and November 30th of this year.

Addendum B: Childcare Learning Centers Report

School Readiness Council Report Childcare Learning Centers October 2011

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 259; 4 year olds – 283; 5 year olds – 0
 - c. Children with disabilities = 20 with IEP; 3 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends: We are under enrolled by 2 slots in Part Day due to movement into full day slots with 50 openings in September, 48 slots were enrolled.

- Program Attendance:
 - a. 100% Attendance. 2 Slots open in Part Day.
 - b. Notes and trends: - none

- Staffing
 - a. Open Positions – 1 Teacher at Maple Ave 11, 1 Part-time Aide at Maple Ave., 5 Part-Time Aides – new positions to assist with planning time and professional development. Three new part-time positions have been filled for planning/professional development purposes.
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
 - c. Training:
 - Two full days for Staff Orientation – review of policies and procedures from all components, NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct, CPR/First Aide, Special Needs – SRBI process.
 - September 22 – Medication training
 - September 30 – SRBI process and NAEYC Accreditation

- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - School Photos were taken September 26th and 27th
 - Fund Raisers have begun to raise money for field trips. Cristoline and Grandma’s Pies.
 - Parent Orientations occurred late August for all new families.
 - September 20th - Instructional Coordinators conducted Open House to discuss curriculum and typical day.
 - Scholastic Book Fair occurred week of September 19-23. We raised approx. \$1,500.00 toward purchasing books for the program.
 - All classrooms are enrolled on the web-based application of www.ctpaf.org. This will allow teachers to complete child/classroom profiles on-line.
 - One Team from Cluster E was chosen for “Training Wheels-The Cycle of Intentional Teaching Using Connecticut’s Preschool Curriculum and Frameworks”. This is in-depth training with 3 full days off site and continuous coaching, from Julie Coakley throughout the year.

- Julie Coakley has begun the monitoring process. She has completed Cluster A and D1. She is giving immediate feedback which has been very helpful for the staff.
- The Parent Manual has been revised and dispersed to all families. We are in the process of having it translated into Spanish and will deliver to those to families as soon as it is complete.
- Notes and trends- N/A