

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
9:30 a.m.
Mayor's Conference Room

Council Members Present:

Borto, Jola	Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Gregor, Shannon	Family Centers
Glen, Sheila	ROSCCO Agency
Grafstein, Cindy	City of Stamford
Hallssey, Jennifer	United Way of Western Connecticut
Jaffe, Marc	Interim Executive Director, Childcare Learning Centers
Lapine, Jennifer	Past School Readiness Council Chair
Mathur, Dr. Madhu	Stamford Hospital
Morrow, Polly	Pitney Bowes
Rauh, Polly	Board of Education
Reardon, Ellen	SMNC Preschool
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sandahl, Margo	Stamford Public Schools
Schreiner, Dr. Debbie	Stamford Public Schools
Swan, Ellen	Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance
Walker, Dori	Stamford Public Schools
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School

Staff/Advisors/Guests:

Ahuja, Sonja	William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund/ICOR Corp.
Arcuri, Donna	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Brennan, Karen	United Way of Western Connecticut
Cammarota, Karen	City of Stamford, Grants Officer
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers
Tarantino, Sherry	St. Clement Preschool

I. Welcome

Polly Morrow opened the meeting and welcomed new Early Childhood Consultant Jola Borto of Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance and thanked Ellen Swan for her continued commitment. Ellen will be changing her territory with the Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance to the Wilton area.

II. Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2014 Meeting

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the April meeting.

III. School Readiness Liaison Update and Resolution Vote

Donna thanked the RFP Review Committee; Karen Feder, Karen Cammarota, Karen Wenz and Ellen Reardon for volunteering their time, their hard work and for giving a thorough smooth review of our local RFP's. Donna informed the Council that the School Readiness slots were easily allocated and there was no competition during this cycle. Local providers worked together to divide available slots.

The School Readiness Resolution was sent to the Council prior to the meeting and was unanimously approved by the Council.

IV. Stamford Early Childhood Collaborative Update

Karen Brennan reported that the written SECC overview has now been translated into Spanish and thanked Karen Feder for helping to get this completed. The leadership team met in May with Ron Schack from Charter Oak and began mapping out a strategic plan for the coming year and for data collection. The leadership team will be meeting with him again shortly and will then be reassembling the working groups. On March 31, Kindergarten information night was held at the Ferguson Library. Over 80 families joined us for this terrific night. Karen thanked Caroline Ward and the staff at the library for always welcoming us for this event. On April 23, the Collaborative held a workshop at UConn. Chelsea Bourn, Anne Farrell's graduate student, presented her focus group findings around professional development and ways to improve offerings and experiences. Karen announced the Collaborative participated in the STEMfest event in Mill River Park on April 26, running a science and math table for preschool children. Special thanks go Luz Tsiralidis, Nancy Arbito, and Carmen Culvero from CLC who spent the entire day running the science ramps activity, and to Lucia Cook, Sandra Saavedra, Cecilia Montero, Donna Arcuri, Carol Sargent, Karen Wenz, and Michele Sabia for their help running the math activity.

V. Welcome and Introduction of Mayor Martin

Polly welcomed Mayor Martin to his first Council meeting. The Mayor greeted and thanked the Council for their work and stressed the importance of early education. He thanked Cindy Grafstein for her valuable service as his designee on the Council. The Mayor encouraged the Council to cement relationships with local Board of Representative members and Board of Finance members and described the importance of doing so.

VI. Announcements

Karen Brennan announced the first of three family Play and Learn Nights was held at the Chester Addison Community Center on May 1. These hands on literacy and math nights are for children entering Kindergarten in the fall. The next two are scheduled for May 15 and May 29 at the Ferguson Library and CLC Maple Ave. respectively.

Dr. Mathur announced that she will be starting a new practice in Stamford specializing in childhood obesity. "The Lifestyle Medicine Center" will accept HUSKY and be available to help families with

lifelong healthy lifestyle changes and attitude toward food. Anyone who would like information should contact Dr. Mathur.

Dr. Polly Rauh made everyone aware of new immunization requirements for Stamford Public Schools and requested we assist in community awareness.

Marc Jaffe invited all to attend CLC's "All that Jazz" gala that will be held on May 17th.

Karen Feder stated that Abilis will be having a breakfast conference on new developments in Early Childhood on Monday May 12th.

Jennifer Hallissey encouraged all to vote on Facebook to support the Imagination Library which serves over 582 children. Stamford is in the top 200 out of 4000 entries.

Michele Sabia would like to publicize that Stamford Public Schools is currently enrolling children who will be entering kindergarten but have not had previous preschool experience in the Summer Start Program. The children who have registered for kindergarten at; Davenport, K.T. Murphy, Roxbury and Stark may register for the full day Summer Start program. Children who have not had preschool and have registered for all other elementary schools are welcome to attend the part day program. Michele will send the flyer or feel free to contact her for information.

Ellen Reardon asked about Davenport and Roxbury schools offering preschool. Michele advised the Council that each school will have a preschool class as they are part of the Alliance District schools. No details surrounding admission criteria have been agreed upon at this time. However, Smart Start generally targets low income children.

Carol Sargent announced "Teacher Appreciation Week" at CLC will consist of breakfast on Friday May 9th at CLC William Pitt and CLC Palmer's Hill.

Polly Morrow announced that Pitney Bowes has sold its headquarters and will be relocating to 3001 Summer Street. They will be holding a swap shop for supplies and furniture. Polly will keep us updated.

Ellen Reardon announced that the Stamford Museum and Nature Center will hold it's "Spring on the Farm Festival" on May 17th and 18th. She also reminded the Council that families that arrive via City bus always have free admission.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. Our next meeting is TBA.

Addendum A:

RESOLUTION

SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Office of Early Childhood has made application materials available to eligible cities in order to facilitate their request for State of Connecticut funding assistance for the operation of the School Readiness Program for the year beginning July 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the Stamford School Readiness Council wishes to participate in the School Readiness Program with State of Connecticut's funding assistance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STAMFORD SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL,

THAT the Mayor of the City of Stamford, David R. Martin, is hereby authorized to submit to the Office of Early Childhood an application in the amount of \$3,793,840 for the School Readiness Program. The application will also include funding for School Readiness slots at St. Clement Preschool, Childcare Learning Center and SPS School Readiness Classroom @ APPLES ECEC. This plan is reflected in the City of Stamford's application for State of Connecticut funding assistance.

This resolution was passed at the Stamford School Readiness meeting held May 7, 2014, at which a quorum was present and voted in favor of its passage.

I, Donna Loglisci, City and Town Clerk of the City of Stamford, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereby certify that the following is a true copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the School Readiness Council of the City of Stamford, duly held on the 7th day of May, 2014.

And I do further certify that the above resolution has not been in any way altered, amended, or repealed, and is now in full force and effect.

Date

Donna Loglisci
Town & City Clerk

Addendum B:



Stamford Public Schools School Readiness Classroom Report

April 2014

- **Program Utilization**
 - a. Authorized Capacity: 15 School Day, School Year slots
 - b. Ages: 4 year olds
 - c. Students with disabilities: Several children in the PPT process
- **Program Attendance:**
 - a. Illness: Attendance was consistent this month.
 - b. Notes and trends: Attendance was low on the originally scheduled PD day.
- **Staffing:**
 - a. Cassandra Velez, was hired as a second SR para-educator She started following April vacation. This second para position will be in place for the 2014-2015 school year.
- **Training:**
 - a. PD was cancelled due to the revised SPS Calendar.
- **Special Events/Activities:**
 - a. After learning about the many cultures represented in the classroom, Room 108 celebrated multiculturalism with their "Taste of the World" event. Those of us in attendance were deeply touched by the children's musical performance!
 - b. The students are observing the life cycles of the butterfly, frog and praying mantis. Ms. Candice includes literature, movement and hands-experiences to enhance and make learning fun!
- **Of Interest:**
 - a. Students participate in weekly enrichment activities including programs from Bartlett Arboretum, Bricks and Motors, and Animal Embassy.
 - b. Students participate in weekly cooking experiences.

School Readiness Council Report
St. Clement Preschool
April – 2014

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 46 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 17
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-14
- All 25 School Readiness slots are full. *2 slots transferred to 2 other families.
- *Children withdrawn were brother & sister. Mother would like to Home School both of them.
- 99% - Appointments, travel and vacations.

Staffing:

- We are fully staffed! 3 Head Teachers, 3 Teacher Asst. & 1 Floater
- 3 teachers took Personal Days during the month of April

Activities & Events:

- Started our month off with "April Pools Day". Reading and singing along with the book "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim". Parents received information for preschooler swimming lessons in the local area.
- Staff members held their annual Spring Teacher/Parents Conference Day on 4/9. Many of the conferences were also held early in the morning or after school hours to accommodate parents work hours. We had 95% parent participation.
- Each classroom celebrated Spring with hosting their own party with many fun activities and a special snack that they made. Parents were able to visit and enjoy the snack with their child.
- SCP had Spring Recess Vacation the week of 4/14 – 4/18. Several of our families traveled and the children were able to bring back something special to share with their classmates.
- Each classroom planned a special activities for Earth Day (4/22). They also learned about recycling. Information about how to reduce & reuse specific garbage that each child was asked to bring in to school for the day.
- We ended our month with Photo Day!! Each child had their individual and class photos taken. Staff also had their photos taken!

School Readiness Report
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

April, 2014

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – 324 – Full Day; 97 – Part Day; 113- Extended Day
 - b. Attended – 534
 - c. Ages – 122- 3 year olds, 325 - 4 year olds, 87 - 5 year olds
 - d. Children with disabilities - 30 with LEA- IEP 1 without LEA-IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends:

- Program Attendance:
 - a. 100% of enrollment
 - b. Notes and trends:

- Staffing
 - Open Positions-
 - a. Cluster A – Assistant Teacher
 - b. Recruitment – ads on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC.

- Training:
 - a. Music and Movement – April 3 and 17
 - b. Staff Dev. Day – Early Learning Development Standards – April 11
 - c. State Funded Director’s Forum – April 8

- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - Parent Advisory Council meeting – April 1
 - Stamford Museum and Nature Center – “Planting” – April 1, 2, and 3
 - Week of the Young Child –
 - Parent Shares – week of April 7-11,
 - “Pull My Strings” marionette show- April 7
 - Board of Breakfast – April 9
 - “Rainbow of Children Parade” – April 10
 - “Lunch and Learn” Positive Parenting with Julia Trebling – April 17
 - Come Visit with Me – Earth Day, April 22
 - Bruce Museum – April 22, and 23
 - New Parent Orientation – Tours – April 23
 - STEMfest – April 26
 - Stamford Museum and nature Center – “Wooly Workshop” – April 29, 30, and May 1, 2014

