

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
9:00 a.m.
6th Floor Training Room

Council Members Present:

Behm, Patricia	Stamford Public Schools
Cook, Lucia	Literacy Volunteers at Family Centers
D'Luc, Imelda	Head Start – CLC Maple Ave.
Farrell, Anne	University of Connecticut
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Garcia, Maritza	Stamford Adult Continuing Education
Glen, Sheila	ROSCCO Agency
Jaffe, Marc	Interim Executive Director, Childcare Learning Centers
Jennings, Mary	Stamford Public Schools
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
Rigano, Sue	SPEF
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sandahl, Margo	Stamford Public Schools
Schreiner, Dr. Debbie	Stamford Public Schools
Swan, Ellen	Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance
Torres, Dennis	Family Centers
Tomas, Jill	Stamford Public Schools
Walker, Dori	Stamford Public Schools
Ward, Caroline	The Ferguson Library
Weller, Eva	PLTI
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School
Williams, Beryl	Stamford Public Schools

Staff/Advisors/Guests:

Arcuri, Donna	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Brennan, Karen	United Way of Western Connecticut
Burke, Jennienne	Community Member
Cammarota, Karen	City of Stamford, Grants Officer
Coakley, Julie	Cooperative Educational Services
Clement, Suzanne	Cooperative Educational Services
Lamothe, Patricia	Stamford Health Department
Sargent, Carol	Childcare Learning Centers
Tarantino, Sherry	St. Clement Preschool

I. Welcome

Polly Morrow opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for joining us for our last meeting of the year and to celebrate Michele Sabia's retirement.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2014 Meeting

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the May meeting.

III. School Readiness Provider Reports

Reports from St. Clement School, CLC, and SPS School Readiness Classroom at APPLES ECEC for May and were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included here as Addendums A-C. No questions were asked from the Council. Mary Jennings wished to add to the report from SPS SR Classrooms at APPLES ECE. She wanted to add that they had a wonderful first year and wanted to thank Michele Sabia publically for that. Mary let us know that the Bookmobile went to their facility and it was a wonderful experience. Thanked Caroline Ward for assisting with this.. She encouraged everyone to join them for the end of year "Ice Cream Social" on Monday from 4:00- 5:30. Mary thanked Carol Sargent, Trish Behm, Julie Coakley, Suzanne Clement and everyone who supported their program through their first year as a School Readiness provider.

IV. School Readiness Liaison Update

Donna Arcuri reported that she has not heard from the Office of Early Childhood if Stamford will be granted the additional 60 slots that were requested by CLC.

V. Stamford Early Childhood Collaborative Update

Karen updated the Council on the Connecticut Health Data Institute. She expects to send preliminary findings regarding the yellow health form. Jennienne Burke has interviewed all four of our participating child care sites on how accurately the form is being filled out. She also visited the six large pediatrician offices in Stamford. Karen and Jennienne will visit the sites in the fall to review the yellow forms once they have been submitted by the families. Karen thanked all who helped with the three "Play and Learn" nights. Our last "Play and Learn" night was held at CLC Maple Ave. where parents were especially engaged. Karen thanked everyone who participated, hosted, volunteered and thanked Michele for creating "Play and Learn". Michele added that parents are always so grateful to everyone's time and participation in this night. Karen reminded the Council that it is time to start organizing the Early Childhood Fair. We will once again hold this in November. We will once again make a request of Chelsea Piers to use the facility since last year's fair was hugely successful. Karen welcomed any ideas an input from the Council. Karen Wenz and Carol Sargent commented that the timing was perfect for the providers with regard to registration. We collected zip codes and most families that attended were from Stamford.

VI. Announcements

Michele Sabia brought two articles that would be of interest to the Council. The first article was on the potential change in the kindergarten entry age. The proposal is that children must be 5 years old on or before October 1st as opposed to the current 5 on or before January 1st. Michele requested that the Council to consider developing a plan for these children that would have been eligible for kindergarten and may not be able to attend a preschool program. The second article was regarding the preschool in Plainfield, CT that is being called a top preschool. Perhaps we might consider inviting the Director of this preschool to come to a Council meeting to discuss what they have done that is working so well. Michele asked Donna to forward to the Council.

Caroline Ward announced that the Library acquired funding for the Bookmobile to be on the road an additional day this summer. This additional funding was earmarked to target underserved community. Caroline asked to contact her with summer camp information or sites where the children may benefit from this. The Ferguson Library received private donors to reach out to the community that needs it the most. Yerwood parking, Domus and the South end was suggested to Caroline. Caroline will confirm if all stops and make appropriate Contact.

Patricia Lamothe of the Stamford Health Department announced “The Lead Awareness Fair” will be held at Mill River Park. They will provide free lead screenings to all children ages 6 and under. Children and parents will be given safety pointers on how to avoid lead in the home. There will be a magician, clown, petty zoo and other activities. 10am – 4pm. Kerri Hagan will forward the flyer.

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!

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

