

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 5, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Stamford Public Schools, 5th Floor Board Room

Council Members Present:

Brennan, Karen	United Way of Western CT
Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
Cook, Lucia	Literacy Volunteers–Stamford/Greenwich
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Hallsisey, Jennifer (Chair)	United Way of Western CT
Hamilton, Dr. Winnie	Stamford Public Schools
Lapine, Jennifer	Past School Readiness Council Chair
Morrow, Polly	Pitney Bowes
Pomerantz, Erica	Child FIRST
Rauh, Polly	Board of Education
Reardon, Ellen	Stamford Museum and Nature Center
Rigano, Sue	Stamford Public Education Foundation
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sandahl, Margo	Stamford Public Schools
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School

Advisors:

Cammarota, Karen	Grants Department, City of Stamford
Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Childcare Learning Centers
Sargent, Carol	William Pitt Child Development Center
Tarantino, Sherry	Sacred Heart School

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jennifer Hallsisey welcomed everyone and thanked Polly Rauh, and the Board of Education, for hosting today's meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 2012 Meeting

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the October meeting. There was no November meeting.

III. Old Business

- Interviews for the School Readiness Liaison are taking place this week. Michele Sabia has been asked to sit on the interview committee. We hope to have news soon.
- Jennifer shared that the United Way of Western Connecticut will provide the \$10,000 match needed for the Graustein Memorial Fund's Discovery grant.

- Jennifer also reported that the Executive Committee’s strategic planning is going well. The group is working hard to build a more sustainable model for the Council and will have more to report next month.

IV. Council Announcements

- Carol Sargent shared that NAEYC came on November 29 and 30 for the site visits at William Pitt. All went well. Over the weekend, however, William Pitt experienced a terrible flood on the first floor. While there was significant damage, they will be able to continue to have school through the remediation.
- Jennienne Burke shared that Care to Care had their Emergency Preparedness training in November. Valerie Grant from 2-1-1 delivered the training to 22 providers, a huge turnout for this type of training. It was very well received and timely given the recent storm.
- Margo Sandahl invited everyone to Hillandale’s Book Fair on December 10-14. It will be held each day from 8:00-10:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sue Rigano reported that their Reading is FUNdamental book giveaway on November 17 was a huge success. This program was designed to put books into the hands of children who don’t have access to them. Over 300 children, 200 adults, and 50 volunteers participated in the afternoon. Another one is planned for April 6. Any left over books will be donated to summer reading programs.
- Michele Sabia shared plans to host a number of Kindergarten Information nights in January, the first three for CLC (Maple Avenue, Palmer’s Hill, and William Pitt). We are hopeful to have a general community night at the end of January at the Ferguson Library as well.
- Dr. Winnie Hamilton joined us for part of the meeting and spoke briefly about the work the Stamford Public Schools is doing around data collection. She also shared that she plans to expand the SPS summer program this year to allow as many children as possible to participate.
- Jennifer Hallissey shared that United Way is working with CLC to pilot Imagination Library in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Imagination Library provides one free book/month to children birth-five.
- Eva Weller announced that Stone Soup will be held on March 23rd.

V. Brief Committee Reports

In lieu of reports during meeting, brief summaries are offered below. More detail will be offered at our January meeting.

- **Health and Wellness Committee:** Next meeting is January 14; focus will be on learning more about the Medical Home Initiative.
- **Education Committee:** A summary evaluation for the Powerful Interactions conference on October 9 and 10 has been distributed electronically, along with a recruitment flyer for our Focus Group study.
- **Parent Outreach Committee:** The group is working on creating a survey for early childcare providers centered on plans for the Early Childhood Fair. As agreed, we are targeting the fall of 2013 for the Fair. Plans for a Kindergarten Information Night and Play and Learn nights are underway as well.

VI. New Business

- Valerie Grant, Early Childhood Specialist for 2-1-1 Child Care, came and gave a presentation about the important work 2-1-1 does. We opened this portion of the meeting to the general community and had an additional 12 people join us. Please see Valerie's PDF handout of her Power Point slides for more information.

VII. Regular Reports

- Reports from Sacred Heart and CLC for both October and November were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included here as Addendums.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9 at
Literacy Volunteers, 141 Franklin Avenue.**

Addendum A: Childcare Learning Centers Report, October 2012

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 263; 4 year olds – 279; 5 year olds- 0
 - c. Children with disabilities = 27 with IEP
0 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends:
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 100% of enrollment
 - b. Notes and trends
- Staffing
- Open Positions-
 - a. Head Teacher- Cluster A, Assistant Teacher- Cluster A, Head Teacher- Cluster B, Assistant Teacher- Cluster B (new), Head Teacher – Cluster C (new), Head Teacher- Cluster F (new)
Assistant Teacher – Cluster F
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC, Craig’s list
Notes and Trends – We continue to have a difficult time finding staff with a Bachelor’s degree with 36 credits in ECE.
- Training:
 - a. EPI-PEN - October 4
 - b. “Positive Interactions”- Judy Jablon – October 9th
 - c. Follow up “Positive Interactions” – Carol Sargent – October 18th
- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - “Meet and Greet” with Board of Directors/ All Staff = October 4th
 - Sound Waters has been visiting Cluster E. They will visit 5 times and end with a field trip to Sound Waters on October 11th.
 - Parent Advisory Council – October 23rd.
 - Field trips to Stamford High Preschool Lab – October 2 and 15 – Cluster C, October 4, 12, and 25 Cluster B
 - Julie Coakley has been conducting monitoring/feedback sessions throughout the month.

Addendum B: Childcare Learning Centers Report, November 2012

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
 - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 213; 4 year olds – 328; 5 year olds- 0

 - c. Children with disabilities = 24 with IEP
0 without IEP
 - d. Notes and Trends:

- Program Attendance:
 - a. 99% of enrollment
 - b. Notes and trends

- Staffing
 - Open Positions-
 - a. Head Teacher- Cluster A, Assistant Teacher- Cluster A, Head Teacher- Cluster B, Assistant Teacher- Cluster C, Head Teacher – Cluster C (new), Head Teacher- Cluster F (new) Assistant Teacher – Cluster F
 - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC, Craig’s list
Notes and Trends – We continue to have a difficult time finding staff with a Bachelor’s degree with 36 credits in ECE.

- Training:
 - a. Two trainings were cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy. Rescheduled and cancelled again due to NAEYC visit. Have been rescheduled for December.

- Special Events/Activities:
 - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
 - “Lunch and Learn- Surviving the Holidays” presented by Liz Anavy on November 15th
 - Sound Waters has been visiting classroom E-3. They will visit 5 times and end with a field trip to Sound Waters in December. (Final date TBD).
 - Parent Advisory Council – November 27th
 - Field trips to Stamford High Preschool Lab – November 14th and 28th– Cluster C, November 14th and 29th- Cluster B
 - Field trip to Stamford Museum and Nature Center for apple pressing – Cluster B – November 7th.
 - Julie Coakley has completed monitoring/feedback sessions. Action Plans have been submitted by all Instructional Coordinators/Teaching staff.
 - Heights and weights were completed on all children. Volunteers from UW assisted.
 - NAEYC visit occurred November 29th and 30th.

Addendum C: Sacred Heart Report, October 2012

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 47 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 17
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15
- All 26 School Readiness slots are full.

Program Attendance:

- Children – 99% Colds, stomach flu
- Staff – 100%
- SHS closed Monday, 10/29, Tuesday, 10/30, Wednesday 10/31 & Thursday 11/1, due to Hurricane Sandy.

Staffing:

- 10/24 – New Assistant Teacher hired for our After School Program & substitute (when needed)

Activities & Events:

- 10/9 – Full day Professional Development at UCONN campus – All SHS staff members attended
- Started 2 Fall Fundraisers, Jeannine Pies, Cakes & Cookie Dough and Kidstuff Coupon Book. All fundraisers are due 1st week of November.
- Fall Parade Celebration & Luncheon was postponed due to Hurricane. New date set for Friday, 11/9/12.

Moving Update:

We had 2 final inspections with sign-offs on 10/26/12. (Fire & Health) We are currently waiting for Building & Zoning sign-offs. We have an appointment with the Building inspector on 11/6/12 for a final inspection.

Addendum D: Sacred Heart Report, November 2012

Program Utilization:

- School Day – School Year – 46 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 16 (child moved out of town)
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15
- All 26 School Readiness slots are full.

Program Attendance:

- Children – 95% Colds, stomach flu, bronchitis
- Staff – 98%
- SHS closed Thursday 11/1, due to Hurricane Sandy.
- Reopened for full day on Friday, 11/2 and was also open on Monday, 11/5.

Staffing:

- New After School staff member hired to start on Monday, 12/3/12

Activities & Events:

- 11/6 – Full day Professional Development at St. Mary’s School in Ridgefield, CT – All SHS staff members attended. Rowland Reading Program were the presenters.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences took place on 11/13 & 11/14. Staff members reported that all the parents that signed up for conferences came in and were thankful for the experience and the insightful information that they received. Staff were also flexible with some parents to make sure that they were accommodated due to work, time etc.
- UCONN Literacy Event – SHS children were again treated to a wonderful story time provided by UCONN Stamford, on 11/14/12. UCONN students and staff assisted in escorting our children to and from the campus. The guest reader was Ms. Camille Figluizzi, Principal from Westhill High School. Children were treated to cupcakes and juice provided by Ms. Figluizzi and the UCONN Co-op.
- Fall Fundraisers, Jeannine Pies, Cakes & Cookie Dough and Kidstuff Coupon Book. All fundraisers were due 1st week of November, but, due to Hurricane Sandy, we pushed due date to 3rd week in November for collection.
- Children’s Fall Parade Celebration was held on Friday, 11/9/12. Many parents volunteered to assist in our annual event!
- Children’s Feast was held on 11/20/12. Children dined on their favorite...Chicken tenders, carrots & dip, apples and chips. Many parents came in to volunteer to set up, serve and clean up afterwards!

Moving Update:

We have had 3 final inspections with approvals, (health, fire & building). We are waiting to hear from Zoning as to whether or not we are approved. Once we get the final approval from Zoning, we can get a sign off from the Building Dept. and send paperwork to the State of CT for an inspection and approval. We are currently moving all our non-essentials to the new building as it has been recommended by Deb Hayes from the CT Dept. of Public Health. No moving date has been established.