

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, Feb 28, 2023

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Zoom Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/BBiZ8dgKkomjLMwIM8JJvfz_fkyDFdzOk7HX88uZ6ubN5Pg9F9lrUIkZ7E3NxQ2O.48GrVckDuY32Cv92?startTime=1677627183000

Passcode: n@A+*0f0

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Mary Geragotelis, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Brittany Santiago, Andrea Kaye, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of January 31, 2023 meeting minutes:** Mary moved to approve the minutes. Scott seconded the motion. No discussion, (except that Terry misspelled Geri's name in one instance). Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Scott moved to accept Hampton's December financial report. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed. Scott moved to accept Hampton's January financial report. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Scott moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Classroom updates were shared within the shared drive before the meeting for members to view.

Hampton

- Hampton has received word from NAEYC that their site visit for reaccreditation will occur between March 13th and the 31st.
- Sam also described some of the activities that have been offered to children during Spirit Week including, Read Across America, and Dr Seuss stories (older students read to preschoolers).
- Preschool screening has been scheduled for April 18th, with a few families already signed up. There are also currently a few children enrolled in Birth-to-Three who will be coming up.
- There is a new child who resides in Chaplin who is being enrolled in Hampton due to lack of an available space in that town's program.
- Chrissy provides Family Fun Fridays, and a Papa Gino's event have supported family engagement.
- Professional development has been provided to get preschool teachers more involved in the SRBI process.

Scotland – There was no discussion about this program.

7) **SR Liaison report**

a) OEC updates

- i) The grant application for FY 24 will be a streamlined process this year. There won't be a narrative report. Terry will complete an online attestation for renewal. One question is in relation to Council membership, but the OEC managers indicated that as long as councils are working to achieve the requirements it will be okay. Terry will need new budgets from each program and signatures from superintendents and selectmen. The application is due on May 4th.
- ii) The OEC is accepting program requests for additional spaces this time around. Programs that are underutilizing spaces may lose them to communities with greater need.
 - Terry suggested that conversion of a few spaces to part-day may provide increased flexibility for families and programs – as well as potentially helping programs to maintain their number of spaces.

b) Monitoring– Terry went to Scotland for monitoring on February 23rd. She completed a classroom observation and met with the teacher. Terry and Ann met to discuss the program's policies and procedures for family fees. Terry will return in March to complete file reviews. She will also schedule a day in the near future to help Sam with family fee policies in Hampton.

8) New Business:

School Readiness Grant Quality Components – The “Overview and Description: Connecticut School Readiness Grant” was shared with the council and contains a list of the 11 quality components required by the grant under Section 10-16q of the C.G.S. These include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services including public libraries, and for coordination of resources;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Record-keeping policies that require documentation of children's health and insurance status as well as referrals for health services;
- A plan for the incorporation of appropriate pre-literacy practices
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from school readiness program to kindergarten
- A plan for professional development for staff, including but not limited to, training in pre-literacy skills development and designed to assure respect for racial and ethnic diversity;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program; and
- An annual evaluation of the program.

Terry will bring information about a few of these topics to each meeting for discussion.

9) Old Business:

a) Family Engagement

A Hampton Board of Ed member needs to be selected to represent the BOE on this council. Perhaps this could be a current or past parent who serves on that board. Scott mentioned that in Scotland there is a committee that appoints the person to serve on this council. Sam will talk to Rose in follow-up.

b) Updates to SRC Policies

- Suggested amendments to the council policies are in the shared folder and available for review by members with the exception of the family fees section.
- Terry is currently working with the programs to revise and update their policies and procedures related to family fees. These will be shared with the council for review this spring.
- There continues to be some conflict over whether or not families of children with IEPs should be charged a fee at all. Ann reiterated that in Scotland, there is a formula used to pro-rate fees when services (such as speech) are of limited duration. If a child has a disability requiring full time supports (such as a one-on-one) than the family isn't charged because the services are being provided the entire time. Joy inquired about how a change of policy might affect currently enrolled families. Sam said she would grandfather anyone in that situation. Some families were already enrolled and paying before children were determined to be eligible for special education, so it's not consistent. Terry suggested that any policy should be consistently enforced.
- Additionally, the way the program is advertised and explained to families at the point of enrollment can assist in helping them to understand the difference between free public-school services and elective programs that involve a family fee. Cost of care information can be utilized to market the program and help put into perspective that the sliding scale fees that families are charged is only a fraction of the overall cost.

10) Audience for citizens: None

11) Next Agenda Development:

New Business – Terry suggested discussion of Quality Components topics:

- Annual evaluation
- Transition to Kindergarten

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Sam at 7:15 PM and seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING will be held on March 28, 2023.

Held through Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Surprenant, Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Liaison
These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next School Readiness Council Meeting