

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Zoom Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/m1Ypz6Q9C2v1pNpai3A5t4P-X_A1ahAw0_BMnilQy7E76UqWIw0lnK3trp-K4IST.8M7_XIxJJEXAvLt-?startTime=1685486391000

Passcode: J7U^2GCC

Attendance: Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Andrea Kaye, Geri White, Mary Geragotelis, Samantha Sarli, Rose Bisson, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of April 25, 2023 meeting minutes:** Geri moved to approve the minutes. Sam R. seconded the motion. No discussion. Rose and Mary abstained. Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Andrea moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. Geri and Rose abstained. Motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Mary moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Sam R. seconded the motion. No discussion. Geri and Rose abstained. Motion passed.
- 6) **Program updates:**

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

Hampton

- Hampton received passing scores for reaccreditation; which is good for 5 years! Sam uploaded the Decision Report into the OEC Registry as required.
- Enrollment is looking up for next year with already 15 children identified; several are B23 referrals.
- Upcoming events: Science of Reading tomorrow and Field Day on Thursday.

Scotland

- Recent field trips included a parent in attendance for each child.
- Families have been more actively engaged at school events recently.
- Enrollment numbers are up for next year. They anticipate 18 children, with as many as 20 interested.
- Have been working to revamp the classroom environment and plan to utilize the 2 classrooms that are dedicated for preschool use next year.
- One child that will be Kindergarten eligible (turning 5 in December) will be retained in preschool next year.
- Ann described some challenging behaviors and commented that the pandemic may have affected the development and readiness for school participation for those young children who were born into that situation.
- Scotland has hired a new fiscal manager.

7) SR Liaison report

a) OEC updates

- i) Terry uploaded both grant applications on May 3rd and received confirmation that they were received. Now we wait for OEC approval.
- ii) Both programs expect higher enrollment next year. The OEC is aware that they will be requesting a return to typical allocation amounts once the OEC invites that information.
- iii) Terry pointed out that no more than 5% of enrolled children in SR spaces can be eligible for Kindergarten. This is allowable with Council approval and only in cases where the parents and school agree that this would be in the child's best interest. (Rose inquired about the council's knowledge of what the research shows about this course. The members have not explored this.)
- iv) Programs are required to report annually on their cost of care. These costs will be reported to the council at the September meeting.

8) New Business:

This will be Sam R's last meeting. She will be available to assist with the transition to a new principal at Hampton Elementary School. The Council members thanked Sam for her years of service and dedication.

9) Old Business:

a) Vote on Council Policies

- There was discussion about whether or not to vote on the family fee policies this evening due to fewer Scotland representatives at the meeting. Both principals indicated that they need to know the outcome in order to alert parents about costs now, so it was decided not to delay until September.
- Terry asked for clarification on a few items in the policies:
 1. In F1, there is a statement that programs are to avoid enrolling a child from out of district until after November 30th. This is not a state requirement, but was a local decision made in the past. When the programs aren't able to fill a space, this policy doesn't allow them to enroll a child from out of district until the 4th month of the grant, which means they can't bill for that space for 3 months. After some discussion it was decided to remove this detail.
 2. Terry added an explanation within the policies in F5 to clarify what is meant by the OEC when they refer to a 3-year-old as being age eligible.
 3. Cost of Care – reminder that programs need to report this information to the Council and Families annually.
- Joy made a motion to update the Hampton Scotland policies by removing the phrase *(or after November 30th for School Day/School Year programs)* in F1 as well as include the explanation of a "three-year-old" in F5. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Family Fee Policy (On whether or not to charge family fees in cases when a child has an IEP.) A summary of the issue was provided (details of which have been documented in detail in prior meetings' minutes.) After a thoughtful discussion about the pros and cons of each policy option and with acknowledgement to the seemingly conflicting requirements of the School Readiness grant and special education FAPE, Ann moved to accept the more flexible family fee policy with the following wording: *Full-Day, School Day, and Extended-Day programs shall determine a fee rate for each family. Programs will have the option to reduce the amount collected either in full or in part on a case-by-case basis. Considerations may include financial hardship or eligibility for special education, in which case, programs will pro-rate fees so as not to charge for services that are provided while the child is participating in the School Readiness program.* Rose seconded the motion. All members, except Geri voted to accept. The motion passed.
- Ann moved to accept all of the changes to the policies in total as written. Rose abstained. Geri opposed. The remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

10) Dates for upcoming SRC meetings:

According to the bylaws, there need to be a minimum of six meetings per year. In recent years, there have been eight scheduled. It was agreed that the meetings for the 23-24 school year will occur in September, October, November, January, March, and April with an optional meeting in May. Meetings will be scheduled on the final Tuesday of each of these months from 6:30 to 8:00 via zoom except in months when the programs decide to host in-person meetings on site. Terry will type up a list of meeting dates and share with all members.

11) Audience for citizens: None

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Ann at 7:48 PM and seconded by Rose. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – September 26th 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