

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/YSHR9f8QNtBvXhgrkEruj3IQQbsE6qJLqTthH_vFCUmeFJhwKOjAQldY9eHu77c5.9J1VN-IMH_fUID_1?startTime=1666737428000

Passcode: =3gE8TdB

Attendance: Joy Becker, Scott Sears, Mary Geragotelis, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Andrea Kaye, Ann Gruenberg, Terry Surprenant, Kathy Donahue (Hampton resident)

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** Agreed to postpone discussion of 9.a. “Committee’s suggested revisions for Council Policies” until the November meeting.
- 4) **Approval of September 27, 2022 meeting minutes:** Joy moved to approve the minutes. Ann G. seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Ann G. moved to accept Hampton’s financial report. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland;** Ann G. moved to accept Scotland’s financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Classroom updates were shared via email before the meeting for members to view. There was discussion regarding each program:

Hampton – Joy mentioned that the 10 pumpkins that were described in the update were donated by SRC member Tristyn Warren. Ann G. suggested that appreciation be expressed on behalf of the council. Sam agreed to do so.

Scotland – Ann K. described that their school has been trying to increase opportunities for families to participate in-person at school functions. There are many new families joining their school community.

7) SR Liaison report

a) OEC updates

- i) **Family Income Rule** Terry explained that the School Readiness grant requires that each program have no more than 40% of their enrolled families over 75% of SMI. Hampton exceeded that percentage last year. Scotland currently has more than allowable. This is challenging in small districts where there isn’t a wait list, as programs need to enroll all families who apply.
- ii) **ECE Reporter** – Liaisons are now able to access this database. Terry has been working with program administrators to manage the monitoring requirements of monthly reports.

The workflow is a bit cumbersome and Terry will create a new submission schedule to help make this a smoother process.

- iii) **Wage Supports for Early Childhood Educators** In October, Governor Lamont Announced \$70 Million in Appreciation Bonus Payments for Connecticut Child Care Workers. These funds will be used to provide bonus payments to the staff of child care providers in Connecticut, including license-exempt programs. Individual bonuses will amount to \$1,000 for full-time workers and \$400 for part-time workers. Scotland will not apply for this due to staff being in a union. Sam will consider whether to apply for her preschool staff – or at least paras.
- iv) **Enrollment-based Grant** Eligible programs include those with SR funding who attest that > 50% of children enrolled in School Readiness funded spaces live at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Grant funds will be awarded to currently funded programs quarterly starting July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Both programs were assisted to apply for this.

8) New Business

- a) Recruitment of Families to the Council – Terry shared about strategies that other councils are using. For example, one school hosted a breakfast for preschool parents that was an opportunity for them to socialize and hear about the Council. Ann K. shared that they will try to recruit families during upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. Terry offered to attend an event at either school when parents will be present to be available to share information. Joy offered to join her in Hampton. Ann K described that their PTO has only 4 members currently. Parents have explained that evenings are difficult for parents with young children at home. Hampton only has 2 young moms who are engaging in PTO and those meetings happen right after school. Additional suggestions for recruitment included providing speakers or social events to engage families, and surveying families about best time of day to meet.

9) Old Business: None

- 10) **Audience for citizens:** Kathy asked for the Council to forward program and financial reports to the Hampton Board of Finance. Terry will send.

11) Next Agenda Development:

- a) Old Business
 - Policy revisions
 - Work to increase parental participation

- 12) **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Ann G. at 7:16 PM and seconded by Mary. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING will be held on November 29, 2022.

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