

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, Nov 29, 2022

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/4GhGY3N6JDDZvrX59mHqgK6xGvpUsdS1bke1zeffvKUi08cAewoUIAhMBLWjd-E.tE_f7y7E49PT4_KP?startTime=1669764929000

Passcode: .b7K0Y?d

Attendance: Joy Becker, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Tristyn Warren, 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 October 25, 2022 meeting minutes:** Mary moved to approve the minutes. Geri seconded the motion. One typo needs repair, otherwise, no discussion. Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Geri moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland;** Mary moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Geri 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 brief discussion regarding each program:

Hampton

- Sam shared that Sally Rogers provided a music program in person at the school.
- The Parish Hill Seniors invite the families from Hampton to participate in activities. They recently hosted a child-appropriate movie viewing.

Scotland

- Held a recent book fair at the school.
- One child has increased hours so now all children are participating fully.
- Social-emotional challenges linger due to pandemic effects – children had minimal social experiences prior to coming to preschool.

7) SR Liaison report

a) OEC updates

- i) **ECE Reporter** – Terry created a new submission schedule to help make this a smoother process. Both programs have been keeping up-to-date with reporting.
- ii) **Wage Supports for Early Childhood Educators** – As was previously reported, Scotland will not apply for this. Sam explored further with Terry and doesn't think it would work, but will discuss with Hampton's superintendent to be sure.

iii) **Enrollment-based Grant** – The funds for quarter one should be available soon. The next application will be due in January for quarter two. Terry will remind programs to complete it on time. This provides an additional \$64 per enrolled child per month. The funds will be deposited in eGMS.

iv) **Infant Toddler Expansion Grant** – The OEC has made this available to School Readiness Programs if they wish to apply for funds to create new classrooms within their programs for Infant & Toddler care. Up to 24 spaces can be requested (3 classrooms of 8 children each). There are start-up funds of up to \$75,000 available per classroom. These rooms would have to be licensed through OEC. Would need to be full-day, full-year. Fees would be sliding scale based on family size and income. There was a discussion about the following:

- Indoor and outdoor space needs – Are the current school environments able to accommodate this age group?
- Staffing – How to find qualified staff? Administrators don't have expertise in this area.
- What is the community need? Tristyn shared that she has a toddler and that child care for this age group is hard to come by. However, would there be enough children to fill the rooms? A needs assessment would be useful to gather data.
- Potential for toddlers to feed into preschool which could assist with enrollment.
- Schools don't currently have full-day care for children so it would be difficult to accommodate the required hours.
- There is no additional admin funding available to support quality outcomes/monitoring.
- Two-year funding but how to sustain beyond?

The general sense of those in attendance was that this is not something the programs are prepared to take on. Sam R. and Ann K. will talk to their superintendents and let us know what they think. Their decisions will be shared with the full Council later this month. Terry will need to submit the council's intention of whether or not to apply by Jan 13th. *(At the time of the meeting it was assumed that this would need to be put to a vote, but Terry later learned that if the programs opt out, the council will only need to be notified. If either program has an interest in applying, the council will need to vote on whether to support.)*

b) **Monitoring**– Terry has completed first site visits for this school year. In Scotland, she did a classroom observation and assisted Ann with updating the OEC Registry. In Hampton she did a file review and will be returning there this week to assist with family fees. Both programs were in compliance for the items monitored.

8) **New Business:** None

9) **Old Business:**

a) **Family Engagement**

i) Ann reported that there is a parent in Scotland who intends to run for a position on the BOE. She is also open to participating on the SR Council.

- ii) The principals have been challenged with getting parents to participate in other meetings as well. They will survey families about best times, however the 6:30 PM on Tuesdays work well for all of the long-standing community members. Keeping the meetings virtual may also prove more convenient for parents.
- iii) There was additional discussion about child care needs of the community – specifically before and after care for working parents. Neither school currently provides this although it has been attempted in the past. Low numbers have made this unsustainable.

b) Updates to SRC Policies

A committee of five have met several times to review and discuss the SR Policies document, previously updated in 2017. There were some items that were added due to changes in state statute, while others were recommendations from the group aimed at strengthening policies and improving continuity between the two programs.

- Terry reviewed the first few pages of the document to get clarification from the members.
- It was a little challenging for all to follow along electronically. Terry will add page numbers to the document that was shared from the Google Drive.
- It was decided to move through the document a few sections at a time during the next several meetings.
- Terry explained that the committee had a difficult task of deciding on specific language related to family fees due to having two districts with varying needs and positions. She learned that the council's policies don't need to be as specific as was attempted. More work will be done to update this section (due to a recent revision of the state's fee schedule and method for calculating fees). The council will be alerted when this section is ready for review in advance of the next meeting.

10) Audience for citizens: None

11) Next Agenda Development:

a) Old Business

- Continue with SRC Policy revisions – focus on family fees section
- Discuss parental participation

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Geri at 7:33 PM and seconded by Sam. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING will be held on January 31, 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