

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/4EnHWZmwwxNx0SToXY5aXC-j1Dbj8Kh7NVH79KhkSmYiDm2VIa4mivIbkGmh3M9.gYh29WmdlTp6gQI8?startTime=1711492428000>

Passcode: +?V5sM?0

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Patrice Merendina, Valerie Bruneau, Rose Bisson, Brittany Santiago, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Andrew Skarzynski, Andrea Kaye, Terry Surprenant, and guest, Heather Standish Smullen

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** Add discussion about QE grant as 9.B.
- 4) **Approval of Jan 30, 2024 meeting minutes:** Joy moved to approve the minutes. Rose seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Rose moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Geri seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Scotland:** Mary moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Geri seconded the motion. With regard to the carryover of a portion of parent tuition from last year, Scott asked if there was a plan for those funds. Val and Ann explained that those funds will be used to enhance the environment of the second classroom, and ensure that all classroom environments will be adequately furnished for accreditation. Scott explained that in the past, there was too much money carried over. Terry shared that the OEC does currently allow fees collected in May and June to be carried over. Those funds must be spent in this FY. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Program updates:

A classroom update report was received from Scotland and placed within the shared drive before the meeting for members to view. (Hampton's teacher is out on leave and wasn't able to complete this time.)

Hampton

Principal Patrice Merendina shared:

- The current enrollment is 12 students. She hasn't tried to recruit new students as planned due to the current lack of a lead teacher. Ms. Stone is out on an extended leave and they haven't been able to find a consistent sub.
- Thank you to the recreation commission (of which Andrea Kaye is a member) for providing a movie night for families over the winter.

- Hampton continues to collaborate with EASTCONN in professional learning initiatives. In February the preschool teacher, along with paras and support staff participated in a session to learn about use of visual aids for communication and naturalistic teaching strategies for students who are neuro-divergent. Patrice also led a PD with all staff that began with identification of personal core values, and utilized a webinar series to explore neuro-diversity.
- Have received 2 notifications for B23 students in the town of Hampton.
- Only one family has requested a waiver for admittance of their child to Kindergarten. The program team is looking into a tool to use to determine K readiness; are considering the DIAL 4.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- Working on the program and classroom portfolios for accreditation. They received their visit window of April 22nd – May 3rd. Utilizing AQIS support to prepare. Observations have been going well.
- Pre-K teacher is back from leave.
- Preschool has been focused in learning about spring. They are observing birds, growing plants in their science center, and soon will experience the hatching of butterflies.
- Enrollment is at 23 students between 2 classrooms. There is both a 3-year-old and a 4-year-old class. Looking to send people to workshops regarding play-based learning.
- Preschoolers and their families are included in school-wide events. A few after-school offerings:
 - St. Patrick's Day included a traditional meal and Irish step dancing
 - Tomorrow they will see a BMX demonstration
 - PTO will be providing a star lab
- They are happy about the new Kindergarten age cut-off but if a parent requests, they may use the Brigance to assess early readiness.

7) **SR Liaison report**

a. OEC updates

The grant application will only require updated budgets and signed documents for a one-year continuation. Terry will send programs the required forms next week.

The OEC may be looking at March numbers in making decisions about allocations for next year. See the [Governor's Bill #5051](#) for possible future changes to the program state-wide.

b. Monitoring

2nd site visits were completed. Terry will schedule final visits to occur in May.

c. Professional development – there will be a Play Conference at EASTCONN on Saturday April 27th. A flyer will be shared with programs. EASTCONN Early Childhood Initiatives also offers ongoing training and coaching on use of purposeful play as a teaching approach.

8) School Readiness Quality Components

Enrollments and Preschool Screenings

Terry and the principals will be meeting over their schools' April breaks to discuss preschool recruitment and planning for next year. Terry will share the OEC-produced marketing materials for School Readiness. Scotland ordered brochures through OEC that describe child development benchmarks. The Kindergarten age change will increase the numbers of children age-eligible for preschool next year.

9) New Business:

- a.** Heather Standish Smullen, Parent Educator, Early Head Start, shared information about the program and described ways they may be able to support families in Hampton and Scotland
- Currently recruiting income-eligible families
 - Serve expectant moms and families with infants and toddlers
 - The program available to Hampton and Scotland is a home-based model
 - Families receive weekly visits and socialization opportunities
 - (EASTCONN's Head Start program does have center-based programs but only in Putnam, Killingly and Plainfield.)
 - Heather will supply flyers with details and contact info.
 - There is an opportunity for a School Readiness/EHS collaboration. This could address a grant requirement. Scotland noted that there will be opportunities to partner during their summer programming.

b. Quality Enhancement funds

Programs administrators shared their intentions for use of these funds next year – to continue using it to support professional development and family activities. Council members voiced trust in the administrators to make decisions to best meet the needs of their programs.

10) Old Business: Mary and Terry will choose a date in May to provide a workshop for families at the Scotland Library about appropriate use of technology with young children.

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

12) Agenda for next meeting: Standing agenda.

13) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Geri at 7:27 PM and seconded by Mary. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – April 30, 2024 via 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