

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, April 29 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Victoria Smith, Andrea Kaye, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Valerie Bruneau, Brittany Santiago, Terry Surprenant, Melanie Smith-Cervera

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** Old Business – Updates on transition to LGP, guest, Melanie Smith-Cervera, Transition Planning Support
- 4) **Approval of March 25, 2025 meeting minutes:** Ann moved with a second from Mary to accept the minutes. Misspelling of Geri's name was noted (apologies!) otherwise, the minutes were approved as written, with abstentions from Brittany and Valerie.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Geri moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Scott seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Scott moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Geri seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.

6) School Readiness Quality Components

Transition to Kindergarten – Programs are required to assist families and children with a smooth transition from preschool to Kindergarten. This can be achieved through various strategies including: transfer of assessment data, communication between preschool and K teachers about each child's strengths and needs, information shared with families about what to expect, joint preschool and Kindergarten activities, and classroom visits.

Annual evaluation of the program – The administrators were reminded to utilize the NAEYC family surveys to gather input and feedback from families. Scotland does so through an electronic survey. Hard copies can also be sent home. Sharing those early may assist in getting more returned. Monitoring data is also useful to measure program strengths and needs.

7) Program updates:

A classroom update was received from Scotland and shared with the group.

Hampton

Interim Principal, Vikki Smith shared:

- Preschool screening is scheduled to occur tomorrow with 4 families signed up.

- Geri mentioned that a family with small children is moving in to Hampton currently.
- Joy mentioned that a new housing development may bring in more families with children.
- There is a field trip planned to attend a play.
- Vikki gave an update on efforts to recoup past tuition owed. Some past families have recently submitted payments.
- QE funds are not yet expended. Some of that will go to enable support for the Kindergarten teacher through a CLASS observation and feedback. This initiative will support transition from Pre-K to K.

Scotland

Superintendent Valerie Bruneau shared:

- Scotland provided a three week ESY program for pre-K and K students last summer. It went well, so they opened it up to Hampton, Chaplin, Sprague and Eastford for this coming summer. They are using Bloom BCBA services.
- Last fall Scotland hosted a Resource Fair at SES and are planning to offer it again on Oct 4th 2025. They are coordinating their efforts that day with other town organizations including the fire department and the Huntington Homestead. They will invite residents from neighboring towns to participate.

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- April has been a busy month. Children are learning about living and non-living things. Activities included hatching chicks and Chick Yoga.
- Events have continued with robust family participation:
 - A BOGO Scholastic Book Fair
 - Magician
 - Earth Day planting
- Upcoming field trips include:
 - Live performance
 - Roger Williams Zoo
 - Enrollment for fall has been ongoing with prospective families receiving school tours, and preschool screenings offered.
- Kindergarten transition:
 - 8 current PreK students will be moving to Kindergarten
 - Teachers will share DOTS assessment data with receiving teachers.

8) SR Liaison report

OEC updates

The OEC recently sent a survey about preschool assessment – Terry checked in with principals about completion. She will forward the memo.

Fiscal:

- SR funds must be drawn down – the grant is coming to an end!
- QE dollars must be spent by end of June.

- Still no word on whether these funds will continue next year.
- Terry has reached out to the OEC manager to inquire about carry over for family fees received in May and June. She will alert both programs when she receives an answer.

Monitoring

April 8 – 3rd visit Hampton Did classroom observation, file review, and met with Vikki.

The final visit for Scotland will be May 7.

9) New Business: None

10) Old Business: Transition to Local Governance Partner (LGP)

EASTCONN hosted a gathering April 23 to discuss the move to LGP. Vikki and Ann both participated to learn more about the LGP requirements and meet with local administrators to begin planning for the upcoming transition.

Valerie shared that she met with local superintendents earlier in the day to discuss the transition and they are interested in joining as a larger regional LGP. Communities include: Sprague, Lisbon, Scotland, Eastford, and Bozrah. Terry reached out to Andy Skarzynski about Hampton and Scotland and he confirmed that they would be on board as well. Councils in those communities will need to approve.

Valerie shared concerns about what the outcome of the community needs assessment might mean for LEA funding. She also shared strategies for leveraging funding and community resources and made a strong case for the larger regional collaboration. Lingering questions include:

- Who will sign off on the attestation naming the lead agency?
- How often will the LGP meet and where?
- What will the funding level be?
- How many Parent Ambassadors for the group?
- What will the move mean for amount/types of funding come 2027?

Melanie Smith-Cervera shared about her work in supporting the LGP transition.

- She reviewed current membership, bylaws and meeting notes.
- Created a crosswalk document that showed what is already in place with the SRC and needed LGP requirements
- Shared her findings and recommendations for next steps:
 - Described the role of the Parent Ambassadors. This is a paid, limited part-time (about 10 hours per month) position. There is a sample handbook and job description to guide the group in hiring.
 - Outreach Family Child Care providers in Hampton and Scotland and learn of their needs and interests in participating
 - Child care for infants and toddlers is not readily available for families who need it.
 - Consider businesses in town and who might partner on this initiative.

- One benefit of regionalizing is an opportunity to support pre-k teachers to collaborate on professional learning.
- She will create a survey to ask current SRC members some questions for feedback and get an idea of who is returning (and if people who are not returning would be willing to participate in a smaller capacity).

Geri shared that she looked into the work Colchester has done to support families with young children. Their initiative is called *Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3)*. Geri passed around some printouts from their website.

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

Ann shared refreshments and members were thanked for their many years of service to the council! Terry will share meeting minutes via email so they can be approved before submitting to the town clerks for posting as this is the last meeting of this council. The group remains in force until June 30th. Members can expect an email with a survey link for feedback. Co-chairs may be contacted if their signatures are needed.

12) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Surprenant, Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Liaison
These minutes were approved by the Council on May 6, 2025.