

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Monday May 5, 2014 at Scotland Elementary School
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Joy Becker, Mary Geragotelis, Cathy Pinsonneault, Scott Sears, Elise Guari, Richard Packman, Ann Gruenberg, Melanie Smith-Cervera, Sheri Lambert, Allison O'Connor, Paul Graseck, Sandy Ferguson, Suzanne LaFleur, Geri White

- 1) **Call to order:** Suzanne LaFleur, acting chair until Scott arrived, called meeting to order at 6:40 pm
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** NONE
- 3) **Update agenda as needed:** skipping any voting pieces until co-chair arrives, playground update added
- 4) **Approval of March 25, 2014 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve meeting minutes from 3/25/2014 with date change from February to March by Geri White and seconded by Elise Guari. Motion passed unanimously. No abstentions.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Motion to accept Hampton's financial reports was made by Ann Gruenberg and seconded by Geri White. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously. No abstentions.
 - b. **Scotland:** \$8,600 spend down was proposed in a memo by Richard Packman after receiving feedback from teaching staff in School Readiness classrooms. In addition to the items listed, another concern of the teachers was security; however a security grant can be used for this purpose. Motion to accept Scotland's financial reports was made by Geri White and seconded by Ann Gruenberg. Motion passed unanimously. No abstentions. Motion to accept additional recommendation from Richard Packman made by Ann Gruenberg and second by Geri White. Discussion: clarification on \$500 from this recommended expenditure memo is in addition to the \$8000 for the playscape project. Motion passed unanimously. No abstentions.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Hampton: Elise Guari gave an update on finishing up using QE money to hire a consultant to come in to work with para professionals on collecting data on CTPAF and new learning standards through CAEYC (ongoing). May 13th is the zoo field trip scheduled for prek/k with families. This trip allows an opportunity for prek children to spend some time with K teachers for transition purposes. Backpack fun packs are going home with families for a home-school connection tool.

Scotland: Cathy Pinsonneault gave an update on enrichment activities including a trip to the Boston Children's Museum and an upcoming trip to the Mystic Aquarium. Staff continues to attend professional development opportunities including Common Core, Benefits of Play, Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint and Using the new CT Early Learning and Development Standards. NAEYC accreditation work continues. Prek screenings are May 5th and 6th with a new screening tool being utilized this year. Prek children going to K will attend an orientation on May 8th.
- 7) **SR Liaison Report:** Melanie Smith-Cervera reported out that a regional School Readiness meeting was held at EASTCONN with Gerri Rowell, discussed LEP's and RFP. An email from the OEC was shared on approved Early Childhood Legislation which includes: the Office of Early Childhood being codified into law, School Readiness expansion and rate increases, the introduction of Smart Start grant and an increase of funding for Care 4 Kids.
- 8) **New Business:** NONE
- 9) **Old Business**
 - a. School Readiness grant
 - i. Reviewed readers recommendations: It was recommended by the reader subcommittee to approve Hampton and Scotland for School Readiness funding

with some minor edits to submitted grants. It was recommended by the subcommittee to not approve Chaplin Carelot due to an incomplete application being submitted. Council reviewed compiled recommendations for the three programs. Ann Gruenberg made a motion to approve the recommendations from the reader subcommittee and Scott Sears seconded the motion. Motion passed. Geri White, Mary Geragotelis, Elise Guari, Cathy Pinsonneault, Allison O'Connor, Richard Packman abstained.

- b. Quality Enhancement Grant: EASTCONN submitted proposal. Discussed Powerful Interactions workshop. Discussed still holding this workshop even without a common PD day try to be creative with how the workshop happens: combine teacher with staff at the time that works. Scott Sears made a motion to approve the powerful interactions training and Geri White seconded. Discussion: add money to parent activities from the professional development line item. Paul Graseck asked if travel line item needed money put into it as well. Motion was made to approve budget with modification made of removing coaching/training and adding cost of the book for participants in the workshop. Motion approved. No abstentions.
- c. Grant management subcommittee
 - i. Search committee review of applicants: Richard Packman reviewed an applicant that applied, well qualified, from Berlin, educator with a terrific early childhood background. Resume was shared with group. Committee has only advertised at this point not interviewed this candidate. EASTCONN submitted a proposal as well. EASTCONN staff members excused themselves from the discussion. Scott Sears made a motion to hire EASTCONN with the stipulation of a discussion with EASTCONN to be had to clarify some questions with the proposal. Ann Gruenberg seconded. Motion passed. Elise Guari and Cathy Pinsonneault abstained.
- d. Scotland Rec committee: Scott Sears has been in contact with Terry Delaney of the Scotland Rec Committee about the \$8000 the SRC allocated in 2013, for the playscape at Bowers Park. He has informed Mr. Delaney that the money was still available when they were in a position to request it from the SRC.
- e. Hampton playscape committee: met last Tuesday with first selectman to finish up. Butterfly plaque arrived with all donors names on it. To do list completed should complete playscape by Memorial Day with a dedication in June. Metal benches need to be installed including a donated one from a local family. It is a birth to age 5 playscape. Landscaping needed including fencing. Mulch needs to be raked out. Swings are also included with the playscape. Allows young children to play on the playscape while older children play sports in nearby fields

10) Audience for citizens: NONE

11) Set next meeting Agenda: Due to the late ending of the meeting it was decided to pick meeting dates for fall through email. September will be the next meeting unless a summer meeting needs to be called.

13) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm by Elise Guari and seconded by Cathy Pinsonneault. Motion passed unanimously. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted, *Sheri Lambert & Melanie Smith-Cervera*, Hampton and Scotland School
Readiness Liaisons

These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next School Readiness Council Meeting