

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, May 31, 2022
Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/FPtCdhERkDagabXN1nCEgPlk2fZwXZg35YkPJH9h_OUXW_eUjSTSLtU6QCsu_hv8.0BA4iotl4oLSOrQD?startTime=1654036566000

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Attendance: Joy Becker, Scott Sears, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Andrea Kaye, Frank Olah, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** Fee policy revisions not ready for discussion.
- 4) **Approval of April 26, 2022 meeting minutes:** Geri motioned to approve the minutes. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. Scott abstained. Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Joy moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Geri seconded the motion. Geri inquired about how things are going. Sam explained that there is a new executive assistant this year who is now processing family fees. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Scotland:** Mary moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Sam seconded the motion. Mary inquired about the status of funds through end of year. Ann responded that everything is on target. Scotland's fiscal director is retiring, but has and will remain available to assist with the transition. All the money has been accounted for to end the school year. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Classroom updates were shared via email before the meeting for members to view.

Hampton

- Sam corrected that Field Day will be on June 2nd.
- Chrissy and Lee have been utilizing SR funds for staff development.
- Sam also acknowledged that Joy is a critical member of the school community and expressed that she feels fortunate to have had her working in the preschool. Joy explained that although she is certified to teach K – 6, she had reached 40 days cumulative in preschool and needed to apply to be a long-term substitute for PreK and SPED and it was approved through the end of June. Sam said that it was a tough year and they couldn't have done it without Joy.

- Joy shared that there are 12 SR students currently, including a new child who enrolled in May and lives out of town. Additionally, there is one child who attends part-time in a community space. (But will be in SR next year.)
- Recent events included trips with the whole school to the Roger Williams Zoo and Mystic Aquarium.
- Andrea helped plan a whole school event for Arbor Day.
- Nine children will be eligible for Kindergarten next year. Four children registered and came to the school for preschool screening. One family participated in a virtual meeting and is exploring the possibility of enrolling their child next year.
- Sam shared the template for program updates with the teacher and will talk to her about using it for next year.
- Sam does not have any information at this point about children currently in Birth-to-Three for next year. There isn't always advanced notice. This year they had three children transition in from B23.

Scotland

- Ann shared that the teacher has been focused on topics that children are naturally interested in including: summer, planting, bugs, bees, and animal habitats.
- The preschoolers will be going to the RW Zoo with the rest of the school on June 6th. Preschoolers are included in all school-wide events.
- They are planning a “Bounce into Summer Reading” event to kick off the summer on a Saturday from 10 – 12. It will include a bounce house, Mary will be there from the Library, and there will be ice cream sundaes.
- The PTO had a Bingo night that was well attended by younger students and families. Some families are ready for in-person activities while others are reluctant to attend.
- Although they have had a para out in the preschool classroom, another para has been covering and the teacher has been consistent.
- There are nine children moving on to Kindergarten, and six new students coming in. Deb, the administrative assistant works well with the families to support them to enroll their young children. No children from Birth-to-Three on the horizon yet. They will continue to do a rolling screening, but some families are still on the fence about whether to send their 3-year-old children to what will be their first out-of-home experience.
- Covid infections continue to cause a disruption to school and home life. At this point, if children have Covid they are out for 5 days and then come back if symptom free with mask for 5 days. However, children are making good progress.
- They also had their first Spring Music Concert in several years. The preschool children participated and all children did well.

7) SR Liaison report

a) OEC updates

May was busy with getting the grants submitted. Terry will provide each school with a binder with their grants printed out to keep on site. The OEC should be alerting us in June of their decisions.

b) Monitoring

- i) Terry completed Scotland's visit in May. She had to reschedule Hampton's and will be going there next Monday, June 6th.
- ii) Terry communicated with fiscal personnel at both schools about final budget spend down requirements and dates.
- iii) Both programs are being funded at full allocation this spring.
- iv) Terry will be doing another review of each program's handbook and will spend an additional day this summer to meet with principals to plan for next year.

8) New Business

- a) During a past meeting, council members expressed that it would be helpful to have program updates that were consistent. In response, Terry created a template that could be used by both programs. Ann created an alternative version in table format and tried it out this month. This format also includes the quality components that are required by School Readiness and Terry is planning to use this documentation as a way to keep the council informed of those pieces as well as guarantee that everything they are supposed to oversee gets covered. Sam shared that the new format will ensure that both she and the teacher connect each month and work on it together. Terry would like to set up a schedule for next year with due dates for programs to submit these updates so she can get them out to council members more in advance.
- b) Frank mentioned that next year classroom teachers will have the new IEP reporting requirements.
- c) Annual Evaluation – data is available through self-study activities for NAEYC accreditation (currently underway in Hampton), monitoring reports, and family surveys. Last year, Sam used the NAEYC survey and sent them out by mail, but didn't receive any back, but she's willing to try to create an electronic survey this year. Ann is going to use Google forms and send it out that way, so the results will be tallied for them.
- d) Family engagement – In Scotland, the teacher has daily face-to-face interactions with many families at drop off and pick up times. That school has resumed in-person events as well so families are receiving more opportunities to communicate about their children and provide feedback about the program than in the past few years. In Hampton, parents are still not allowed in the school, but they do utilize technology to provide daily communication.
- e) Terry is going to create a Google folder and will upload all of the monitoring documents and RFPs, and will share a link so all council members will have access to all pertinent information.

9) Old Business – Policy Revisions

- a) A committee worked on updating some of the SR policies in March and April but need to return to this task. Terry wasn't able to schedule in May so the group will need to try and get to that in June.

10) Audience for citizens: None

11) Next Agenda Development: This was the last meeting of the school year. The council will resume meetings next September and will continue with its current meeting schedule – the last Tuesday evening of the month (excluding December) at 6:30 PM. Zoom meetings seem the most convenient for most. Mary offered for anyone needing a stronger internet connection to join her at Scotland Library to participate. Each school might be able to host one in-person meeting but that will be decided in the fall. There was a discussion about ways to increase family participation.

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Frank at 7:25 PM and seconded by Mary. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING will be held on September 27, 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