

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/zQ9pZaRoplal9uXeLbSFrCHarnfXF70VI2M4V0mz2CrY0jVArZQvqij1DV_hPY.1p6sdxqSo-yjVafL

Passcode: 8KD%@rx9

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Valerie Bruneau, Rose Bisson, Brittany Santiago, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of Oct 24, 2023 meeting minutes:** Joy moved to approve the minutes. Ann seconded the motion. No discussion. Rose abstained. Motion carried.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Rose moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Val moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Classroom updates were received from both programs and placed within the shared drive before the meeting for members to view.

Hampton

Principal Patrice Merendina shared:

- The current enrollment has decreased to 12 students, with another child scheduled to enroll in December.
- Preschoolers will participate in the winter concert in the first week of Dec.
- Parent Teacher conferences are coming up.
- The preschool teacher provides monthly family take-home projects. In November this was a "disguise the turkey" project.
- The preschool teacher continues to focus her professional learning on the Heggerty system for teaching phonological awareness.
- The program is planning to utilize the Special Education Resource Center (SERC) webinars for paraprofessional training. Looking into the topic of supporting executive functioning.
- Patrice has reached out to the NE CT Chamber of Commerce to support her efforts to increase community collaboration.
- Planning an additional open house so families can meet with the special services team - including the guidance counselor who is known by families as well as

some new SPED staff that have been hired since the last event. This event will also provide some early literacy and numeracy information for families.

- The school will receive some SPED training from EASTCONN as they didn't use all of their contracted days last year.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- Between Parent Teacher Conferences and PPTs scheduled around the same time, all families met with the preschool teacher this month.
- There are 21 children enrolled across 2 preschool classrooms (3s and 4s). The Pre-K teacher is out on leave but there was a one-week overlap with the substitute teacher to provide a smooth transition.
- Sofie the therapy dog came for a visit into preschool this month.
- The recent Harvest Festival was a success! Preschoolers participated in a school-wide event with parents running activity stations throughout the school. Families were also able to eat lunch with the children on that day.
- A new music teacher has been hired and is planning a family sing along to occur on Dec 22nd.
- Starting to look at numbers for next year. Currently there are thirteen 3-year-olds who will be moving to the 4-year-old class next year (including those who won't make the K age cutoff).
- Preparing for re-accreditation – each week the team meets with the EASTCONN support staff to work on this process.

7) SR Liaison report

a. OEC updates

Both Scotland and Hampton have had SR allocations returned to previous levels (18 for Scotland, 16 for Hampton). Scotland has already filled their additional space. Terry will support Patrice to open enrollment up to neighboring communities that may have wait lists.

Administrators completed the enrollment grant applications for quarter 1. The next quarter application will be due in January.

Terry will schedule 2nd monitoring visits to occur after the holiday break.

8) School Readiness Quality Components

- Nutrition - Due to the integrated nature of child development, School Readiness requires that grantees address the needs of the whole child including their health, safety and nutrition. Healthy habits are important for children to learn about and practice. Each program described how they support children's nutritional needs. Although families can opt to send food from home, food service is still being funded by the state.

Hampton Elementary

- The cafeteria staff are among those who greet children as they arrive at school.

- Students get breakfast in their classroom and this meal is part of the morning routine.
- Preschoolers eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- If a family indicates a concern in this area, as there is for one child presently, an individualized plan is put in place.

Scotland Elementary

- Students are offered breakfast upon arrival (only 6 children participate)
- There is a hand washing routine before meals
- Children eat both meals in their classrooms (more children eat school-provided lunch)
- Toothbrushing is required in programs that provide 2 meals so the program is working to address this need. (Terry has experience with this routine and can provide technical assistance.)
- Children also have opportunities for AM and PM snacks.

2) **New Business:** None

3) **Old Business:** None

4) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.

5) **Agenda for next meeting:** Include quality component: Professional Development for staff.

6) **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Val at 7:00 PM and seconded by Rose. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – January 30th 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