

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/LXy1yfqwjmHFGahEcmlHCgkxIRfPkr244G0ZH6hYCJfi3uIFx-TtoU9sTv-MwKtT.KCCX5sj05_PJzTA

Passcode: =t6Nh^35

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Patrice Merendina, Valerie Bruneau, Rose Bisson, Brittany Santiago, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of Nov 28, 2023 meeting minutes:** Scott moved to approve the minutes. Rose seconded the motion. No discussion. Geri and Mary abstained. Motion carried.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Mary moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Rose seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.
 - b. **Scotland:** Scott moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Val seconded the motion. Scott asked that family tuition be included on these reports. Val said that they will include with the overall monthly revenue. Joy asked that the report be labeled with the program's name. The motion carried.
- 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 increased to 13 students.
- Preschoolers continue to be included in school wide initiatives – for examples, PBIS/earning paws, husky of the month celebration, VIP lunch with older students, evening family events.
- A preschool family generously volunteered to donate a basket from the parent's workplace for an upcoming raffle.
- The preschool team is continuing to collaborate with EASTCONN on data collection, support and instruction, and goal setting. This work will continue school-wide on PD topics to include neurodiversity, inclusion, and trauma-informed practices.
- Patrice and Terry will work together to plan for preschool registration this spring
- Family involvement – working with PTO to providing evening events including a spaghetti dinner, game nights, and make-and-take activities.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- Working on the program and classroom portfolios for accreditation. The visit could be as early as April 1st.
- Preschoolers are always included in school-wide events. Recent movie night was well attended by families
- Children are learning about winter and experiencing the weather while getting outside daily.
- There are 21 children enrolled.
- Due to recent illnesses, staffing is a struggle at times. Long-term sub has left but it'll be 2 weeks until the PreK teacher will return.
- Working to identify families with young children who may be eligible for preschool in the fall. It can be challenging to find and track incoming students as the town doesn't report this data.

7) **SR Liaison report**

a. OEC updates

Word is that the School Readiness grant is going to be another continuation without an RFP this year. Terry is awaiting more details, but the programs likely will not have to complete a full grant application this spring.

b. Monitoring

Terry visited Scotland today and Hampton last week.

- i) Scotland - time was spent in Carol's classroom where children were combined due to a lack of 2nd teacher. The children were busily engaged in play throughout many well-stocked learning centers. The teachers were responsive and interactive. Child files were reviewed. The nurse was out that afternoon so Terry will return to review health files and provide feedback.
- ii) Hampton – Terry completed file reviews and met with the administrative assistant to discuss this year's family fees. Patrice and Terry met to work on updates to the OEC Registry and discussed recruitment strategies for 3 available spaces; Patrice will be reaching out to neighboring communities to inquire about their waitlists. Terry offered to assist with preschool registration and program policy updates in April. (No classroom observation was necessary this visit.)

c. Other news

- Terry will be providing a training *Using Interactive Whiteboards in the Early Childhood Classroom*. for Preschool and Kindergarten teachers in-person at Eastern CT State University March 22. Noon – 3:00. She will share the registration link with the programs this week.
- Online virtual trainings are being made available through the OEC. They are using a learning management system called ProTraxx and teachers have to create an account. Terry will share this link with teachers as well as instructions for use of the system.

- GEER- funded training and technical assistance on use of the CT DOTS assessment is available ongoing. Terry is the contact for this support.
- Terry is beginning to partner with local libraries to provide workshops for families on the topic of developmentally appropriate use of technology with young children. Mary and Terry will meet soon to discuss.
- Hampton and Scotland are both towns in EASTCONN's Early Head Start (EHS) catchment area. If families are interested and income eligible, EHS home visitors can provide support to expectant mothers and families with infants and toddlers. Topics covered include child development, parenting, and social service support.

8) School Readiness Quality Components

Professional Development is required by the grant for all classroom staff (15 hours per year minimum.)

- Hampton has a collaboration with EASTCONN. Scotland will have PD on Special Ed for teachers and paras in Feb. They have already addressed the literacy and diversity topics as required by SR.
- Quality Enhancement funds can be used to support teachers' learning needs. Programs can begin thinking about how to spend those funds next year. Some programs send staff to conferences. (NAEYC has 2 national conferences each year. CT also has an annual event.) If teachers are interested in presenting at a conference, Terry would be happy to collaborate/partner.
- Many of the state offerings don't have a fee.

9) New Business:

Valerie shared that CT.gov will soon be making enumeration data available to districts for children through EdSight <https://public-edsight.ct.gov>

10) Old Business: None

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

12) Agenda for next meeting:

- a. Guest from EASTCONN – An EHS Home Visitor will join the meeting in March to describe their program.
- b. SR Quality Components – Enrollments for next year and preschool screenings.

13) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Val at 7:04 PM and seconded by Rose. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – March 26th 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