

School Readiness Council Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Gilead Hill School Room 4

Present: Donna Lanza (Co-Chair, Town of Hebron), Patti Buell (Co-Chair – School Readiness Coordinator), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison), Eric Brody (Principal - Gilead Hill School), Chris Lapsis (PreK School Readiness Teacher), Laurie Larsen (AHM), Rebecca Murray (AHM), Brittany Garnelis (Park and Recreation Department), Nancy Simmons (School Readiness Clerk)

Approval of December 1, 2016 Minutes:

Donna Lanza motioned to approve the December 1st, 2015 minutes. Becky Murray seconded. All were in favor.

Thank you/NAEYC Conference in November, 2015/Smartboard

Chris Lapsis thanked the SR Committee for the opportunity for the PreK Team to attend the Annual NAEYC Conference in Florida in November. Chris stated it was an indescribable experience. It was very powerful, inspiring and a reminder to teachers what is developmentally appropriate for students – too much – too soon –. Play is such an important part of learning!

Also, Chris thanked the SR Committee for the Smartboard. He is looking forward to getting it up and running.

Rivereast Article Update (see attached):

Eric Brody reported that he was very happy with the article that the Rivereast ran on Friday, January 8th. He thanked the Prek Team for being available to answer questions regarding the article to the reporter, Geeta. Hopefully this will get parents interested in our program. Eric also mentioned that we designed an ad that was in the Rivereast regarding our preK programs and screenings.

Enrollment:

Patti Buell reported that at this time we have 17 School Readiness slots filled. The Town of Columbia has inquired about our open slot. Paperwork has been forwarded to them at this time.

Proposed Budget (see attached):

Donna Lanza feels we are making progress regarding transparency. We are better prepared to answer questions.

We need to think about needs of program moving forward.

Revenues and expenditures need to equal.

We have spent \$1768 so far on professional development

We can use money for brochure costs, family night funding, babysitting costs.

Mr. Lapsis will work with PreK Team to put a proposal together of prek needs for next meeting. Possible needs – glue sticks, paint, science needs, ramps and magnetic boards outside, reconfiguration of prek bike path, in class field-trips (Lutz/Mystic), Play and Learn groups could participate.

Chris will look into on-site field trip costs as part of the proposal.

Eric and Chris will meet with Wayne Durocher to revisit revamping of prek bike path and report at next meeting.

It is anticipated that we will be reducing professional development and increasing supplies at next meeting.

Patti Buell recommended that we increase Marilyn Piecuch's stipend to \$5500.00. We pay her \$5000.00 at this time.

We will vote per line next meeting (on all changes).

State Updates:

None at this time

Review of School Readiness Policies (see attached):

Eric reviewed Policy 3A/Grantee Budget Guidance. He approved.

Patti and Marilyn have 3 policies to work on.

Donna reviewed 100-3A/General Program Policies – Tuition. She will ask State for the formula regarding cost of care.

Cari and Heather will review Policy No. 1A/Nonsectarian Policy for School Readiness Programs and bring any suggestions to our next meeting.

Becky Murray will review Policy No. 9A/Early Childhood Professional Development Registry and bring any suggestions to our next meeting.

Brittany Garnelis will review Policy No. 100-2A/General Program Policies – Admission and bring any suggestions to our next meeting.

Committees:

Family Literacy Night – Becky Murray will talk to Cheri at the Douglas Library and come up with a plan and costs for students in Hebron.

Healthy Snacks – Becky Murray may have resources for this. She may have a possible speaker that we could work with in conjunction with AHM. We could try a start time at 3:15. Chris Lapsis will also explore. Becky will check with 211 contact to see if speaker can do at 3:15 time.

Community Resources Brochure:

Brittany Garnelis and Becky Murray will collaborate on. Looking at an Early Childhood Brochure with information for families regarding programs, local daycare's, phone numbers, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m. at the Park and Recreation Facility at Burnt Hill Park.