

## **School Readiness Council Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016**

**Gilead Hill School/Room 4**

**Present:** Marilyn Piecuch (SR Liaison), Eric Brody (GHS Principal), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair), Chris Lapsis (SR PreK Teacher), Patti Buell (Co-Chair), Heather Holbrook (Parks and Recreation), Becky Murray (AHM), Cari Duigou (KinderRHAMA), Nancy Simmons (SR Clerk)

### **Approval of January 19, 2016 Minutes**

Donna Lanza asked to correct minutes regarding SR Policies to state that Marilyn Piecuch would ask the State for the formula regarding cost of care and not Donna Lanza. Donna Lanza motioned to approve minutes including correction. Becky Murray seconded. All in Favor. Motion approved.

### **Enrollment Update**

Patti Buell reported that we just filled our last School Readiness spot. The student started on Monday, March 28.

### **School Readiness Policy Review**

No Discussion

### **Proposed Budget – Marilyn Piecuch**

Marilyn Piecuch stated SR Grant is due on May 20, 2016.

### **Approve the 2015-2016 Budget**

After much discussion Donna Lanza motioned that the School Readiness Council agree that \$113,400.00 can be used to fund salaries. Donna also motioned to table the budget, work on further and bring back next month. Becky Murray seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

### **PreK Proposals for PreK Need (including on-site field trips) – Chris Lapsis**

Chris Lapsis stated that the PreK Program is moving to learning outside the classroom. They could use levers, ramps, a garden, sandbox replacement. A sandbox would cost approximately \$2,000 not including sand.

### **Possible Revamping of PreK Bike Path – Chris Lapsis/Eric Brody**

Not discussed

### **State Updates – Marilyn Piecuch**

No Updates at this time

### **Committee Work**

Family Literacy Night – Becky Murray

Becky reported that Literacy Evening (Spring into Reading) will be April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. It will be an evening of Literacy including crafts, stories and for all children and families. It is being sponsored by the SR Council, Douglas Library and AHM Youth Services. Becky would like to buy snacks and a flat of plants. Cari Duigou motioned to approve a budget of \$200.00 for the Literacy evening. Donna Lanza seconded. All in Favor. Motion approved. Becky Murray will supply receipts to the SR Council.

**Healthy Snacks – Becky Murray/Chris Lapsis**

Becky Murray reported that she is working with Chris Lapsis regarding a Nutrition/Healthy Eating Seminar/Meeting. They are planning an afterschool event from 3:15 – 4:00. Chris is working with the PreK Team to work out a date.

**Community Resource Brochure – Becky Murray**

No discussion

**Review in detail, State Policy C-1: School Readiness Council Membership, Responsibilities and the Role of the Liaison**

No discussion

**Discussion and Vote Regarding School Liaison Possible Stipend Increase**

No discussion

**Review Policy H-01: Tuition**

Patti Buell and Donna Lanza stated that we are not charging some families correctly for tuition. \$350.00 is too high for some families and \$350.00 is too low for others based on their income. We need to correct this for next year. Tuition will remain the same for this year. We need to consider how we are going to charge for next year.

It was noted that the community is questioning the cost of the program.

Patti Buell stated that a Tuition Policy needs to be written. We need to state guidelines for now.

**Update on Preschool Lottery**

- As of today, Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 52 students have registered for the PreK Lottery.
- 11 out of 17 students will return next year in the SR Program/7 students will require to be income eligible students
- Deadline to register for PreK Lottery is Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Parents pick 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> choice for which PreK Program they want.
- Patti Buell reported that the PreK Lottery is on hold now due to local and state budget reasons.
- The Hebron Board of Education Resource Committee requested that we hold off with the PreK Lottery for now.

- Donna Lanza stated that on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> the Hebron Board of Finance will finalize the budget.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the town budget vote.
- Patti Buell reported that the Governor's Budget has SR Program at zero which presents some concerns.
- Patti Buell stated that if a community is not filling SR slots then the program could be at risk.

### **Review of 2016-2017 School Readiness Grant**

Not discussed

### **QE Funds**

Patti Buell reported that last year most of the QE Funds were spent on tuition reimbursement for paras in our PreK Program. The QE money is used to increase the quality of PreK in this community by any person that is working in a childhood center and working toward their Bachelor's Degree. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the tuition reimbursement for next year (2016-2017). There was discussion that depending on how many requests are received, tuition reimbursement funds will be divided equally among applicants.

### **Next Meetings:**

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at HES at 1:00. Nancy Simmons will contact Lynn Sniетка to reserve a room for the meeting. Nancy will get Chris Lapsis a sub for the afternoon meeting.

Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at GHS from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m./Room 4

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.