

## **School Readiness Council Special Meeting**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Friday, October 9, 2015**

**Gilead Hill School/Room 4**

**Present:** Brittany Garnelis (Park and Recreation), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair, Town of Hebron), Becky Murray (AHM), Chris Lapsis (School Readiness Teacher), Patti Buell (Co-Chair, Hebron Board of Education), Eric Brody (GHS Principal), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison)

### **Possible Allocation of funds for two teachers to attend the NAEYC Conference in November, 2015**

- Donna Lanza would love AHM teachers attend conference. It would add to the program. It would serve and be beneficial to a lot of kids. \$420.00 per person was requested. AHM will cover all other costs.
- As per Patti Buell, Michelle Hamilton expressed an interest in applying for NAEYC accreditation for their programs.
- Becky Murray said that the conference's key note speaker is the author of the curriculum they are using.
- Chris Lapsis reported that the top teachers in the field are at the conference. If you become a member there is a reduced cost to attend the conference. The membership comes with an incentive of a monthly publication.
- Brittany Garnelis stated that it sounds like a great opportunity to go.
- Donna Lanza stated that it is a good opportunity. The concern with using funds is that at times families in program can't afford tuition. Families may get the wrong perception, that we are spending their money to send teachers to Florida.
- Becky reported that AHM would cover cost of flight, hotel. They are requesting \$590.00.
- Becky is concerned about tuition from families. She wondered if families are having trouble paying the fee. It was clarified that families pay according to the State of Connecticut's sliding fee schedule.
- Donna Lanza said sliding scale is set by state, perception is in the community and we need to improve the perception of this program.
- Patti Buell puts forth motion to pay the registration fee of \$295.00 for 2 people to attend the NAEYC Conference if the teachers' pay their membership fees and travel cost.
- Donna Lanza seconded the motion. Motion carries.

### **Other comments:**

- Chris Lapsis wants to grow the collaboration and wants to support AHM. Would need help from AHM for "red shirting" students whose parents don't believe they are ready for kindergarten. This would be a bridge to kindergarten, many parents aren't ready to send young 5 year olds to kindergarten.

- Marilyn Piecuch stated the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is moving toward encouraging all children attend Kindergarten, and that if we create this program with AHM that it may not be aligned to OEC.
- Becky Murray stated that they have been able to support students and families in the past.
- Donna Lanza asked that we add this as an Agenda item at the next SR Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 a.m.