

School Readiness Council Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Douglas Library

Present: Patti Buell (Co-Chair, Hebron Board of Education), Eric Brody (Principal, Gilead Hill School), Brittany Garnelis (Park and Recreation), Chris Lapsis (School Readiness Teacher), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair, Hebron Board of Education), Michelle Hamilton (AHM), Cari Digou (KinderRHAMA Preschool Teacher), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison), Becky Murray (AHM), Cheri LaBombard (Douglas Library –Children’s Librarian), Nancy Simmons (School Readiness Clerk)

Introductions

Approval of Minutes

Brittany Garnelis motioned to approve the September 21, 2015 and October 9, 2015 School Readiness Minutes. Marilyn Piecuch seconded. All in favor.

Recruitment

Patti Buell reported that there are 14 spaces filled out of 18 in the SR Program.

Applications were sent to KinderRHAMA Program and Hebron Interfaith.

At this time we have no new referrals.

Cheri asked Patti if she could send flyers to her at the Library so she can distribute. One page flyer would be great to get the information out.

Chris suggested that on the back of flyer we indicate income guidelines and eligibility.

Chris also suggested that we resend home information to families to see if any half day students could qualify for the Full Day School Readiness Program.

Marilyn Piecuch suggested we send home to Kindergarten parents to get information out regarding younger siblings.

Patti Buell and Marilyn Piecuch reported that State will be asking how many slots we’re using at this time. They have never asked before.

Marilyn reported that there are 36 preK eligible children at poverty level in Hebron. She received this information from the State. Surrounding towns have bigger numbers.

Rivereast Article Update

Donna Lanza has not heard from Geeta at the Rivereast. Eric will call Geeta to set up a meeting, possible having her come during a prek screening.

Enrollment

We have 14 spots filled at this time. Four (4) openings remaining.

Budget

Marilyn has nothing to report. Patti will like to put anticipated revenue/expenses out to Committee. At next meeting (December 1st) hard numbers will be discussed.

Quality Enhancement Funds are additional funds for School Readiness Staff to work on Early Childhood Education. Two SR Paraprofessionals are taking an EC class at this time.

Michelle Hamilton thanked the committee for assisting AHM so two AHM employees could attend the NAEYC Conference in November.

Non-Resident School Readiness Policy

Discussion as follows:

Area towns should be designated by Council.

State is looking for high-credited programs/services.

PREP – At this time PREP only serves Hebron families but Brittany will look into if they would consider offering PREP to families from another town that may be brought into our SR Program.

Brittany Garnelis stated PREP will take School Readiness students even if they are 3 yr. old.

It was suggested to send letter to towns if they know families that could benefit with our SR Program.

Also, suggested to send public notice (in papers) to get the word out.

If space is available, council will approve if we have a child that wants to attend our SR Program.

Reach out to Birth to 3 families – agencies could reach out to other towns.

Patti suggested in our policy that we use the date of September 15 to look at other towns if we could not fill program with Hebron students.

Marilyn will rewrite policy for December 1st meeting. (agenda item)

Council agreed to let Patti reach out to other towns for School Readiness slots. Towns on our list are: Columbia, Marlborough, Bolton, East Hampton and Glastonbury.

Chris stated we need to publicize what kindergarten is and what your child needs to know for kindergarten.

We will add marketing as agenda item for next meeting.

Brittany stated she could add SR information to PREP Brochure.

We should have a guide for Early Childhood for parents.

Becky Murray said she would go out and knock on doors with contact information. She feels this would be a more personal approach.

Post a flyer at different locations in town.

Patti will work on a flyer/brochure and forward to committee members to review.

Hebron Day was a great success last year. It was a great resource for parents.

End of year consider booklet for program (agenda item). We should look at getting a sub-committee for this agenda item.

State Updates

Marilyn reported that there was no state meeting.

State is looking into how many SR slots we have filled.

Marilyn and Nancy attended ECIS training today at Eastconn regarding tracking prek students data)

Full day Program for Late Birthdays

AHM is a great resource for this issue.

Families struggle with this issue/something to explore.

Eric hears from families every year regarding retention.

Patti wants council to look at research.

Forward articles to Nancy at nsimmons@hebron.k12.ct.us. Nancy will send all information to committee members a week before December 1st meeting.

SR/Community Collaboration Discussion (keep on agenda)

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m