

School Readiness Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Room 24

Present: Barbara Wilson (Co-Chair, Board of Education), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair, Town of Hebron), Jeff Newton (Superintendent, Hebron Public Schools), Josh Martin (Special Education Director, Hebron Public Schools), Eric Brody (Principal, Gilead Hill School), Chris Lapsis (School Readiness Teacher), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison), Becky Murray (Family Resource Center Representative), Josselyn Salafia (Hebron Park and Recreation Representative), Nancy Simmons (School Readiness Clerk)

Public Comments:

None

Budget Update:

Quality Enhancement: There is \$1,774.25 remaining in account. We have paid for schooling and books for 3 paraprofessionals. We can use for professional development. It can also be used for the community for early childhood education. For example: KinderRHAMa could use for professional development. Money has to be spent by June 30th or will need to be returned to the State. School Readiness Council must approve where the grant money is spent.

Action Plan:

- Barbara Wilson will send Becky Murray grant form.
- Becky will get word out to the community that this grant is available.

Grant Money: There is \$8,700 in the account. Last year we paid for new preK playground with the money. Barbara advised members to start thinking about where we could spend the money. It must be spent on Preschool. Please note that only revenue—not grant money—can be carried over to the next year.

Action Plan:

- Barbara Wilson will ask PreSchool Teachers if they have any ideas where the money could be spent.
- Barbara Wilson will send complete Budget Information to School Readiness Committee.

NAEYC Update:

Marilyn Piecuch said there is still an enormous amount of work to get done regarding the Program Portfolio. It was discussed that Barbara Wilson and Nancy Simmons will work after hours to get the Portfolio completed. They will be paid for extra hours put into this from the salary line item.

Action Plan:

- Barbara Wilson and Nancy Simmons will plan on working on Friday, April 3, 2015 (Good Friday Holiday) to get the portfolio completed. They may also work after school hours.
- Barbara Wilson and Marilyn Piecuch reported that the Teacher Portfolios are almost done.

Expansion Grant (4 year olds):

Barbara Wilson reported that we are not pursuing this grant this year due to the fact that we don't have the students to support the program. Marilyn Piecuch stated that she wished as a committee that we worked harder to look for students for the program. Jeff Newton reported that the grant money will go to Bridgeport.

State of Connecticut Updates (Marilyn Piecuch reported):

- ECIS (Early Childhood Information System)
- Budget Changes must be in by May 1, 2015
- School Readiness Grant has to be submitted by mid-May. It has to be submitted on a CD.
- Seventeen new towns are eligible to receive competitive grant
- Teachers can apply for scholarship money for Early Childhood Education
- There is a lot of state and federal money for Early Childhood

Enrollment Update:

Barbara Wilson reported that all 18 slots are filled for 2014 - 2015 school year.

Action Plan:

- Barbara Wilson will begin working on 2015 – 2016 school year enrollment.
- Barbara Wilson will email Becky Murray differences in prek programs at Gilead Hill School.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Marilyn Piecuch reported that Barbara Wilson cannot co-chair this committee as an Administrator of the program. It was decided that Eric Brody and Donna Lanza will be co-chairs.

It was also discussed who can vote and who can set agenda items.

All agenda items must go through Marilyn Piecuch, Donna Lanza and Eric Brody.

Barbara Wilson, Chris Lapsis, Eric Brody and Josh Martin cannot be voting members of SR Committee unless they are represented superintendent in his/her absence.

Also, we discussed the need to educate community members.

The School Readiness Program is a community program not a Gilead Hill School Program.

Committee members should not be all school community members

We should look at getting a Daycare Provider, a nurse.

We need to get people involved.

It was discussed that meeting times and locations could be alternated.

Action plan:

- Becky Murray will look for Licensed Daycare Providers.

- Donna Lanza will talk to new Librarian (Amanda Brauer) about joining the committee.
- Barbara Wilson will edit Council Membership policy.

Paraprofessional Reimbursement:

Barbara Wilson reported that paraprofessionals have requested mileage and pay for the time that they are at class. After much discussion a vote was taken. Motion by Donna Lanza not to reimburse paraprofessionals taking early childhood class for mileage and class time. Seconded by Joselyn Salafia. Four members (Donna Lanza, Marilyn Piecuch, Jeff Newton, and Joselyn Salafia) in favor. Rebecca Murray abstained.

Barbara Wilson and Committee wished Jeff Newton good luck in his new position as Superintendent of East Lyme Schools.

Public Comments:

None

Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m.