

## **School Readiness Council Meeting**

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

6:30 p.m.

GHS Music Room

**Present:** Barbara Wilson (Co-Chair, Board of Education), Donna Lanza (Co-Chair, Town of Hebron), Carol Connolly (Hebron Board of Education, Liaison to School Readiness Council), Joselyn Salafia (Hebron Park and Recreation), Marilyn Piecuch (School Readiness Liaison), Erica Kowalski (Parent Member), Chris Lapsis (School Readiness Teacher), Rebecca Murray (Family Resource Center)

**Public Comments:** None

### **Budget Update:**

- Barbara Wilson reported that tuition collected in the month of October was \$2,356.00. We are still in the black.
- Barbara Wilson reported that two tuition checks bounced this month. It was suggested that she contact First Niagara to see if they will waive additional fees for bounced check.
- Discussion occurred regarding what our policy should be regarding bounced checks and fees. Donna Lanza will forward Barbara Wilson the town's policy regarding bounced checks.
- Barbara Wilson will present hardcopy budget for next meeting.

### **NAEYC Update:**

- Preschool Teachers are working on their portfolios. Barbara Wilson and Marilyn Piecuch are working on Program Portfolio. Nancy Simmons is working on scanning documents.
- Marilyn Piecuch is concerned that there is a large amount of work to still be done. Portfolios should be completed by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visit will be anytime after January 31, 2015.
- Marilyn stated there is no possibility of extension. Work is time intensive. Donna Lanza asked if any work could be delegated to others?
- Carol Connolly suggested a 3 day stand-down or additional stipend to get work done. Barbara Wilson would need to look at budget to verify we have additional money to pay to get work done. Due to urgency of work being completed there was an action to approve either a 3 day stand down or an additional 20 hours (not to exceed \$700.00 pp) for 3 teachers, Barbara Wilson and Nancy Simmons. Vote was in unanimous in favor of 3 day stand down or additional stipend (not to exceed \$35.00 per hour).
- Chris Lapsis stated he felt there is a tremendous weight put on Barbara Wilson's shoulders. He also stated that teachers have had professional development time to work on their portfolios.
- Barbara Wilson stated that there are 10 Standards that she needs to present evidence to support in the Program Portfolio.

### **State of Connecticut Update:**

- Marilyn Piecuch explained her job as liaison is to make sure program is qualified and teachers are qualified.

- Barbara Wilson reported that pre-k teachers are attending professional development for Common core. School Readiness will pay for Chris Lapsis to attend. The school budget will pay for KaraLee Aubrey and Rachel Thayer.

#### **Enrollment Update:**

- Barbara Wilson reported that every School Readiness slot is full. We have 11 reduced-income students and 7 full-income students.

#### **Next Year's Enrollment:**

- Barbara Wilson is concerned concerning next year's enrollment. There have been changes to pre-k this year concerning screenings. Newspaper ad has been changed.
- Barbara Wilson stated that pre-K is looking to have a Pre-K Open House in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. Would like to educate parents regarding differences in pre-k program possibilities. It was discussed to invite other Hebron pre-k offerings ie. Discovery Zone, Christ Lutheran. PREP and FRC would like to be included in Open House.

#### **Technology:**

- Carol Connolly stated that she is disappointed that there are no smart boards in pre-k classrooms.
- Chris Lapsis stated that administration didn't say no to Smart Boards in pre-k. They just have a concern because we don't have them in kindergarten at this time.
- Chris Lapsis stated that anything that can be done in a center can be done on a Smart Board.
- Carol Connolly would like to push for Smart Boards. Do we have money in the budget? Barbara Wilson stated that we do not now but may in April.
- Chris Lapsis reported that other 2 pre-k classrooms have projectors in their rooms. School Readiness classroom does not.
- Carol Connolly offered to meet with Administration. Carol would like breakdown of Smart Board prices. Chris Lapsis will forward information to Carol. She wants to have full information when she meets with Administration.
- Barbara Wilson reported that Kindergarten has smart tables at this time. School Readiness Grant cannot pay for Smart Boards. Becky Murray asked if Smart Boards are a necessity in pre-K. Chris Lapsis stated is a benefit to have them.
- Carol Connolly asked to put a vote forward to approve a projector for Chris Lapsis School Readiness Room. Barbara Wilson stated that we shouldn't vote until she looks a budget and see where we are for money.
- Carol Connolly suggested that we could apply for a HEF grant for a projector.
- Barbara Wilson will be working on updating our website to educate parents on pre-k offerings.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 (Room 24)