

HEBRON SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL

January 9, 2013
GILEAD HILL SCHOOL
ACTIVITY ROOM
12:30PM

Council Members Present: Barbara Wilson, School Readiness Liaison
Jared Redmond, AHM/PREP Representative
Judith Richard, Hebron Director of Special Education
Liz LaChapelle, PTA President/Parent
Donna Lanza, Town Hall Representative
Christa Goodwin-Babka, Hebron Daycare Provider
Kathryn Veronesi, Acting Superintendent (arrived at 12:35)
Christopher Lapsis, School Readiness teacher (arrived at 12:35)
Becky Murray, Family Resource Center Coordinator (arrived at 12:35)

Council Members Absent: Eric Brody, GHS Acting Principal
Cheri Labombard, Douglas Library
Polly Simon, Hebron Daycare Provider
Ellen Kirkpatrick, School Nurse
Marilyn Piecuch, Hebron Resident and NAEYC Consultant
Cindy Lalonde, Parent

1. WELCOME

Barbara Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Samantha Schadtler, a parent, requested that an email she sent to B. Wilson be shared. B. Wilson allowed discussion regarding the email. Mrs. Schadtler's son is in the program and raves about the program. She stated that parents that she has spoken with also feel strongly in their support of the program. Mrs. Schadtler would like the Council to consider the age eligibility requirements for preschool and kindergarten. She feels strongly that the Council should consider the 5% option that the state allows for programs to retain a child that would be age-eligible to start kindergarten.

3. BUDGET REVIEW

J. Richard spoke about making some adjustments to the budget. She went over each line item being changed. Education Aides reduced by \$5,612 due to contract negotiations. In-Service reduced by \$250 due to more accurate estimate of services provided. Professional/Technical Services reduced by \$840 due to more accurate estimate of services provided. Instructional Supplies increased by \$1,000 due to classroom needs. Other Supplies increased by \$1,000 due to classroom needs. Property increased by \$5,202 due to the want to add technology to the classroom. These changes are pending approval by the state.

D. Lanza motioned for approval of all changes.
L. LaChapelle seconded
Unanimously approved.

4. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

L. LaChapelle had a question regarding the chairperson nomination and discussion that happened at the December meeting. D. Lanza clarified that the protocol for electing a chairperson was corrected.
D. Lanza motioned to approve the November minutes.
J. Richard seconded.
Unanimously approved.

5. STATE MEETING UPDATES

B. Wilson will be attending the state meeting next week and will report on any updates at the February meeting.

6. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

B. Wilson reported on our current enrollment which is holding at 12. The family that she anticipated to start this month has not returned her attempts to contact them to have their child enroll. B. Wilson reported that this is a child that should be starting in February and also another one in April due to age. L. LaChapelle asked what would happen if we don't enroll 18 students to fill the slots. Judith Richard said that the state does give us a little bit of leeway especially since our program didn't start until October after families had already arranged for childcare and private preschool programs. She's optimistic that we will fill more slots if not all of them for the next school year.

7. SCHOOL READINESS & KINDERGARTEN ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

B. Wilson spoke regarding eligibility. L. LaChapelle questioned why we don't follow the 5% as a school district. In regards to School Readiness, it would only allow one student to stay in the program past the kindergarten eligibility. Discussion continued about if the Council decided to allow that option, how would affect other School Readiness families and/or the Gilead Hill School preschool program. B. Wilson will follow up with Gerri Rowell at the state meeting next week to see how other districts handle it throughout the state. L. LaChapelle feels all of the preschool classrooms should have the same procedures. J. Richard said a policy should be developed around this.

8. NAEYC

B. Wilson spoke about the meeting with Deb Stipe from Eastconn that recently happened with the administrators. B. Wilson stated that Ms. Stipe will be a great asset to Hebron as we go for NAEYC Accreditation. Ms. Stipe has a 100% success rate to achieving accreditation with every district she has worked with. Ms. Stipe will be meeting with the preschool and administrative teams through the remainder of the school year.

9. TEACHER REPORT

Christopher Lapsis is pleased with the classroom and its progression. There has been lots of positive feedback from parents and staff. The students are active participants in the Gilead Hill School. Mr. Lapsis continues to see a lot of growth.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No audience members present.

11. MEETING ADJOURNED

B. Wilson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

L. LaChapelle motioned.

D. Lanza seconded.

Unanimously approved.

The next School Readiness Council Meeting will be held on February 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Music Room.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Stephanie Levin, School Readiness Clerk

Amended 2/13/2013