

# HEBRON SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL

March 13, 2013  
GILEAD HILL SCHOOL  
ROOM 27  
12:30PM

Council Members: Barbara Wilson, School Readiness Liaison  
Jared Redmond, PREP Representative  
Donna Lanza, Town Hall Representative  
Kathryn Veronesi, Acting Superintendent  
Christopher Lapsis, School Readiness teacher  
Samantha Schadtler, Parent  
Becky Murray, Family Resource Center Coordinator

Council Members Absent: Judith Richard, Hebron Director of Special Education  
Marilyn Piecuch, Hebron Resident and NAEYC Consultant  
Cindy Lalonde, Parent  
Eric Brody, GHS Acting Principal  
Cheri Labombard, Douglas Library  
Polly Simon, Hebron Daycare Provider  
Ellen Kirkpatrick, School Nurse  
Christa Goodwin-Babka, Hebron Daycare Provider

## 1. WELCOME

Jared Redmond called the meeting to order at 12:36pm. Introductions were made. B. Wilson formally welcomed Samantha Schadtler to the School Readiness Council. S. Schadtler has worked closely with the School Readiness program and has been spending a lot of time writing grants to try and bring more money into the district for needed improvements.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Loreta McDonnell thinks this is a great asset to the town and wants to ensure that the correct information is out in the community.

## 3. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

D. Lanza requested that on Page 2, Item 5, it should read "Charter Oak State College".

D. Lanza motioned

K. Veronesi seconded

VOTE: 7 yay 0 nay

Unanimously approved.

#### **4. TEACHER REPORT**

C. Lapsis reported that things continue to go well in the classroom. Report cards and parent conferences are next week. He stated that while the parent conferences are optional, he does anticipate seeing all of the parents. C. Lapsis also spoke to the program being selected for an Annual Beautification Project by Eastern Connecticut State University. The area that will be part of the project is the preschool courtyard which will benefit all of the preschool students that attend school at Gilead Hill School. C. Lapsis also contacted a local nursery in Vernon to help with the design. Tentatively the plan is to have this project on Earth Day, which is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. B. Wilson confirmed that Hebron will not be responsible for funding any of this project. D. Lanza asked about the future possible cost of ongoing maintenance the work that is done. C. Lapsis said it will be part of the classroom learning process and possible volunteer opportunity. K. Veronesi asked J. Redmond to talk with Rich Calarco about this project. S. Schadtler provided information about the grant that she submitted to the Hebron Lion's Club as well as to various other grants that she's either already submitted or will be submitting in the near future. These include CVS, LEGO, and the Savings Institute. Another parent will also be completing grants. S. Schadtler talked to Keith Moyer, a teacher at RHAM, and they will be donating time for various structures for the outside. The materials for these additional projects will also be donated. S. Schadtler spoke to how she's describing this as an "outdoor classroom" in the grants. The grant money will pay for the company coming in to do installations so that we are covered and have assurance that everything will be done safely and properly. K. Veronesi hopes that all of this information reaches the community and informs them about all of the benefits of having a community program such as School Readiness in Hebron. She continued by saying that not only will the preschool benefit but the district as a whole will as well.

#### **5. STATE MEETING UPDATES**

B. Wilson reported that the state meeting is next Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and she will have information available at the next School Readiness Meeting.

#### **6. ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

B. Wilson stated that there are potentially 2 new students that will be starting in the near future. This will bring total class enrollment to 16.

#### **7. 5% RETENTION OF KINDERGARTEN AGE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

B. Wilson spoke to this and stated that for the School Readiness program it would provide only 1 spot. B. Wilson explained that because we don't have a school policy in place, we must default to the state policy which states that we can retain 5% of age eligible students. We will eventually have a policy to address this. C. Lapsis spoke to the number of possible students that could exercise the option in his class. Discussion regarding other option as well as how this would affect the other two preschool classrooms continued. D. Lanza asked how the decision would be made as to which student received the spot. Discussion about the options regarding selection would be determined. These included a lottery, case study, or by parent conference. K. Veronesi thinks a policy item should be placed on the April agenda regarding this.

#### **8. SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM PRESCHOOL NAME**

B. Wilson spoke to the need for a name to be created for our application for NAEYC Accreditation. This name would be an umbrella that the School Readiness program would fall under as well as the two Gilead Hill Preschool classrooms. B. Wilson's suggestion of the Hebron Early Childhood Center was considered. There was discussion regarding KinderRHAMA possibly becoming a satellite location to allow them to be

under the accreditation. D. Lanza asked how that might work. B. Wilson said that currently it would just be our three classrooms that are located at Gilead but in the future it could include KinderRHAMA. B. Murray has some questions that would need to be discussed before such a decision could be made. D. Lanza asked if the Hebron Board of Education would need to have a say in the new name since it includes the two preschool classrooms that are part of the Gilead Hill School. K. Veronesi doesn't believe that they need to be a part of the decision since this is a formality to apply for accreditation but she does feel that they need to be informed of the reasons.

A motion to accept Hebron Early Childhood Center as the name was requested.

C. Lapsis motioned

D. Lanza seconded

VOTE: 7 yay 0 nay

Unanimously approved.

#### **9. BUDGET REVIEW**

J. Richard was not in attendance. S. Schadtler asked if the grants that she has applied for to receive funding for possible playground updates need Board of Education approval. D. Lanza asked if the Council has a chance to review the School Readiness Grant when it is written before it goes to the state for approval. S. Levin stated that a draft of the grant could be done with J. Richard and brought to the April meeting. The due date for submission to the state is mid-May so there is time to draft it and submit it. There were questions regarding the inclusion of town officials for any of the projects that are being discussed and concerns that town departments might have regarding safety. K. Veronesi said that those were discussions that she should have with the town manager and other school districts.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

#### **11. MEETING ADJOURNED**

J. Redmond requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:32pm.

K. Veronesi motioned

D. Lanza seconded.

VOTE: 7 yay 0 nay

Unanimously approved.

The next School Readiness Council Meeting will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS Music Room.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stephanie Levin, School Readiness Clerk