

# HEBRON SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL

November 14, 2012  
GILEAD HILL SCHOOL  
ACTIVITY ROOM  
12:30pm

Council Members Present: Jared Redmond, AHM/PREP  
Donna Lanza, Town Hall Representative  
Liz LaChapelle, PTA President/Parent  
Cheri Labombard, Douglas Library  
Eleanor Cruz, Superintendent of Schools  
Judith Richard, Director of Special Education  
Polly Simon, Hebron Daycare Provider  
Kathryn Veronesi, Principal Gilead Hill School  
Christopher Lapsis, School Readiness teacher  
Becky Murray, Family Resource Center Coordinator (arrived at 12:50pm)

Council Members Absent: Christa Goodwin-Babka, Hebron Daycare Provider  
Marilyn Piecuch, Hebron Resident and NAEYC Consultant  
Barbara Wilson, School Readiness Liaison  
Cindy Lalonde, Parent  
Ellen Fitzpatrick, School Nurse

## 1. WELCOME

Judith Richard called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

## 2. INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No audience members.

## 4. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

D. Lanza requested that the hour of the meeting be changed to 7:00pm. D. Lanza also requested that she be included as a member in attendance.

J. Richard wanted to make sure the Council understands that the meeting minutes will be the starting point of developing our policies. J. Richard requested that Stephanie Levin go through the minutes of the previous meetings and draft a list of topics that have been covered for future policy review and approval.

J. Richard motioned to approve the October minutes with those changes.

D. Lanza seconded.

Unanimously approved.

## **5. STATE MEETING UPDATES**

B. Wilson was at a state meeting during this council meeting.

J. Richard spoke regarding the emails that she has recently received from the state. One of the topics that the state covered was the need for the preschool to work together for the NAEYC accreditation even though we have one School Readiness classroom and 1.5 Board of Education preschool classrooms.

L. LaChapelle brought up the possibility of changing the Wednesday day meetings that conflict with the state meetings so that B. Wilson would be able to attend the School Readiness Council Meetings. J. Richard said that it should be discussed and will be put on the table for next month.

## **6. ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

J. Richard read from an email prepared by B. Wilson regarding enrollment. Currently there are 12 students enrolled but there are 2-3 more families that are interested. There are also 3 families on the waiting list.

Discussion regarding 2013-2014 enrollments followed.

## **7. 2013-2014 PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE**

The Council determined that the School Readiness classroom should follow the same rules for enrollment that the GHS preschool follows. That being, if a student turns 3 before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current school year, they will be allowed to start at the beginning of the school year if there are slots available. If they turn 3 after the December cut off, if slots are still available, they will be accepted into the program on a first come, first served basis on their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Slots will not be held for students with late school year birthdays. For 4 year olds, they will be accepted immediately based on slot availability. Also, if a 4 year old is age-eligible to start Kindergarten, they will not be allowed to continue with the School Readiness program and will either need to enroll in Kindergarten or seek out another private preschool program. The age-eligibility requirements are that if a student turns 5 by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current school year, they are eligible to start Kindergarten.

## **8. FLYER DISTRIBUTION**

J. Richard requested that S. Levin go through the list of places that the flyer has been distributed. Currently, the flyer has been posted on the Central Office Bulletin Board across from the PREP rooms, the GHS Bulletin Board outside of the nurse's office, Hebron Town Hall, the counter of the GHS Main Office, the School Readiness section on the Hebron Public Schools website, and the PTA's Facebook page. B. Wilson also distributed them throughout the town. At the previous council meeting, Samantha Schadtler, a parent, requested that a copy of the flyer be emailed to her at RHAM where she is a teacher so she could let staff at RHAM know about the program. C. Labombard at the Douglas Library also requested that a copy of the flyer be sent to her. L. LaChapelle requested that we send it to the Rivereast, the Courant, and the Journal Inquirer. She will provide S. Levin with contact information for the Courant and the JI.

Discussion continued about PREP providing morning childcare to parents that are interested. J. Redmond stated that there is room in the program and that parents should contact him directly. K. Veronesi asked B. Murray if she had heard about interest in the program through her playgroup. B. Murray stated that the parents that come to playgroup aren't really talking about it because it doesn't fit their needs and it's more geared towards the working parent that needs a full day program. B. Murray confirmed that she also had posted the flyer.

## **9. NAEYC UPDATE**

J. Richard attended the annual NAEYC Conference in Atlanta, GA from November 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. She commented that it was a phenomenal conference and that there were many workshops about common core. J. Richard connected with Deb Stipe from Eastconn. Our preschool teachers will start training on January 22<sup>nd</sup> towards NAEYC Accreditation. There are 10 standards that we must achieve for accreditation. The preschool teachers will meet for one half day per month with Ms. Stipe. This will cover professional development for preschool teachers over the next 2.5 to 3 years. J. Richard talked about how there were lots of workshops for teachers to attend and that next year the conference will be located in Washington, D.C. The teachers have been asked if they would like to drive to the conference next year. J. Richard stated that we should become NAEYC members. We might be able to write the cost into the grant next year to cover the cost. E. Cruz approves of that decision. K. Veronesi agrees that it would be win win for our program and staff. L. Chapelle wants to know how much school instructional time will be missed and if the teachers are definitely interested in going. C. Lapsis spoke of the teacher interest and that the teachers have wanted to go to this conference for years. The teachers would miss two instructional days. D. Lanza wanted to know if the grant would pay. B. Murray wanted to know if a price break would be available for a group. P. Simon spoke about her experience when she went to the same conference. E. Cruz spoke about what a great opportunity this would be for professional growth.

At the next meeting, a NAEYC timeline will be provided. Deb Stipe will help us with that. She will be presenting at some point.

J. Richard also brought up a discussion about fundraising. At the NAEYC Conference, St. Jude Children's Hospital had a booth with information on their trike-a-thon. J. Richard thought that since the state is interested in knowing how we are building community, this might be a way to do that. It would be something that we would welcome all preschool age children in the community to participate in. C. Lapsis spoke about his experience with a trike-a-thon fundraiser. The Council spoke about options for doing this in the future and doing other community based activities.

J. Richard brought to the Council the option of having The Learning Station come to do a presentation at the school. The cost was discussed in depth. The question of how can we promote School Readiness in Hebron was discussed. P. Simon offered to co-sponsor an event. The Council discussed many ways to bring School Readiness, the Family Resource Center, the food bank, etc. together. B. Murray spoke about an event happening at RHAM on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. L. Chapelle suggested some ideas to involve everyone in Hebron that target 0-5 year olds. The possibility of doing something in conjunction with Maple Fest in March was discussed.

## **10. CHARTS-A-COURSE**

J. Richard shared that Charts-A-Course provides funding for privately funded preschool programs only. Deb Stipe, from Eastconn, will have to be paid out of the School Readiness Grant.

## **11. BUDGET REVIEW**

J. Richard stated that there have been no changes in the budget as of this meeting.

## **12. TEACHER REPORT**

C. Lapsis said things are going well. The students were disappointed with the missed school days. He continued to share that friendships are quickly forming and that the rate of growth with the students is incredible and evident.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No audience members.

**14. Meeting adjourned**

The next School Readiness Council Meeting will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. in the GHS Music Room.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Stephanie Levin, School Readiness Clerk