

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Zoom Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/faj3GTza3I3PTPSO_Mv6g8M4SHKnxGYG66JXJvh8WcG3Be1H3pbIKj-0VTJ5Jkmf.9KcIOkk0OTJaq9rF?startTime=1732663976000

Passcode: .D1s0T#4

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Victoria Smith, Rose Bisson, Andrea Kaye, Andy Skarzynski, Mary Geragotelis, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of September 24, 2024 meeting minutes:** Rose moved with a second from Joy to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved as written with one abstention by Mary.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Rose moved to accept Hampton's financial report. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Joy moved to accept Scotland's financial report. Rose seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
- 6) **School Readiness Quality Components**

Terry will provide a grant update when she reports out.
- 7) **Program updates:**

Classroom updates were received from both programs and placed within the shared folder before the meeting for members to view.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- November was a short but busy month.
- A turkey-themed take home project has been displayed for all to see.
- Had a real turkey visit at the school.
- Family engagement has been a focus. Afterschool events from 3:10 – 4:30 have provided opportunities for parents to engage in activities with their children.
- Events this month included an art night, and recent ornament craft and tree lighting which had 83 people in attendance!

- Used the eObserve online system for reporting on CT DOTS for preschool assessment.

Congratulations to Scotland for achieving NAEYC reaccreditation!

Hampton

Interim Principal, Vikki Smith shared:

- Recent preschool activities have included Pajama Day and learning about hibernation.
- Moving ahead with volunteers coming back into the school so Family Friday activities will resume.
- CT DOTS reports will be shared with families in January.

8) SR Liaison report

OEC updates

The OEC last week sent the Request for Application (RFA) out to all SR programs via email. Currently funded programs are given the opportunity to complete a fairly easy process which requires they answer a few questions about their program and choose a program type to receive continued funding through the new Early Start CT (ESCT) grant. There is no requirement for Council approval. Formula for funding level is based on utilization for the past 2 years. Not sure yet what level programs will receive. The application is due Dec 5th. There were a couple of webinars for admins if questions. Updates about ESCT are being made available on the OEC website: <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/>

If programs do want to apply for additional funding, there will be an opportunity with an upcoming state-wide competitive Request for Proposals (RFP).

Terry will be attending a meeting with the OEC in December to learn more about the upcoming changes from current Councils to the new “Local Governing Partners” that will be supporting ESCT programs next year. She will share information as it becomes available.

Other news

The northeast portion of the state has been identified as a child care desert. In response, EASTCONN is participating in the Northeast CT Childcare Needs (NCCN) Project. Over the next two years, the initiative will develop strategies to increase access to high-quality, affordable childcare. Upcoming forums are scheduled for Jan 22nd and May 6th. They have three workgroups:

- Childcare Slots and Capacity
- Pathways to Early Childhood Careers
- Childcare Workforce Needs

NAEYC is doing a complete revamp of their accreditation process. This won't have an immediate impact on either Hampton or Scotland.

Monitoring

Next visits will be scheduled in January/February.

9) New Business: None

10) Old Business: None.

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Joy, seconded by Ann at 6:53 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – January 28th Via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Surprenant, Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Liaison
These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next School Readiness Council Meeting