

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Zoom Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ajtQ8htdJI1Sjh19V7fxFSGY4-dMlsmNlf9Jxl4vVBR-0yrleWVjyNbZmqc1s2lX.8lS-8rXAe35ymCNU>

Passcode: in7HtT*W

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Victoria Smith, Andrea Kaye, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of November 26, 2024 meeting minutes:** Mary moved with a second from Ann to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved as written with one abstention by Geri.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Scott moved to accept Hampton’s financial report. Andrea seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Geri moved to accept Scotland’s financial report. Scott seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.

6) School Readiness Quality Components

Professional Development – Staff have to have at least 15 hours per year in professional development. Staff must engage in professional learning on specific topics (diversity, special needs, literacy) and other topics related to early childhood. First Aid and CPR is also required for all staff.

Quality Enhancement funds can be used for PD and for substitutes to cover teacher absence for their participation. Program administrators should check on the status of their QE funds to ensure spending is on track for this year. (The OEC has not yet decided about the future of QE funding.)

Family Education and Literacy – Supporting the whole family is best for child outcomes. School Readiness programs and libraries can share links with families about available resources through newsletters and/or their websites. [EASTCONN Adult and Community Programs](#) provide supports for high school completion for adults, GED classes, English language instruction, U.S. Citizenship classes, and basic skills in reading, and math. They also partner with the [American Job Center](#) to offer comprehensive job training programs.

Offices are in Danielson and Willimantic. Both Scotland and Hampton families are eligible for these services.

Mary shared that Saturday Feb 1st is the 14th annual [Take Your Child to the Library Day](#). Scotland Library is open from 9:00 – noon that day and will be offering special activities.

Other upcoming events include:

- Thursday morning story times 10:00 AM
- Drop-in Valentine crafts the week of Valentine's Day
- Building Club starting up Feb 25 – Provide a variety of constructing materials and a monthly challenge.
- Celebrating Dr Seuss' Birthday with stories, games, and refreshments on March 1st.
- *1000 books before Kindergarten* program. A few children have already completed. Incentives are offered along the way with a set of Pete the Cat books for completers.

7) Program updates:

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

Hampton

Interim Principal, Vikki Smith shared:

- Approved for 12 full day and 1 partial day spaces for next year.
- Teacher has been absent for a few weeks but should be back on Monday. There has been a consistent substitute in place.
- Twelve children are currently enrolled; five of whom have IEPs.
- The speech pathologist has been going into preschool and working on the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) process with children for monitoring and intervention.
- Mrs. Stone helped coordinate a Cuddle Up and Read day. (Vikki shared some pictures of the event).
 - The children made wreaths of joy, enjoyed book buddies, a dance party, and Parish Hill carolers came.
- Have eight new volunteers who will be coming into the school beginning on Friday. They will be assisting with circulation at the school library.
- Report cards will be going home on or before next Monday.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- Preschoolers have been included in after school events.
- Learning about places around the world – currently focused on the Arctic.
- A field trip to the Mystic Aquarium is coming up.
- 18 children enrolled with separate students in 2 classrooms based on age.
- Preschool teachers have been planning together and working on CT DOTS for assessment.
- *Foundations* is being used to support early literacy.
- A Family Bingo event was a huge success with 98 people in attendance.

- Next Wednesday SES will be participating in the *Global Day of Play* when children can have a day of free play – supervised, but completely unstructured and without use of technology.

8) SR Liaison report

OEC updates

Administrators have been alerted that continuation grants were approved by OEC. Allocations were reduced from current levels as they were based on a formula that included past utilization rates. Hampton has funds to cover 13 children, one of which is at a part day rate. Ann reported they will continue with 18 children. If programs do want to apply for additional funding, there will be an opportunity with an upcoming state-wide competitive Request for Proposals (RFP). Community-based programs and family child care providers will also be eligible to apply for that funding which will cover infant and toddler care as well as preschool.

The Hampton Scotland SRC will have an opportunity to transition to a “Regional Governing Partners” group. An application will be forthcoming. As of now, the OEC has described that these groups will be responsible for managing the administrative funds (that currently go directly to the programs) and are used to contract with the liaison. If the group is unable to take on the fiduciary role, it will be permissible to choose a local entity to handle that task. Other new expectations include completion of a community needs assessment and outreach to families. Another option would be to join another group – or reach out and learn from them. The [Northeast Early Childhood Council](#) (NECC) is a current regional council of 7 towns in NE CT that has already been functioning in the manner the OEC is moving toward.

The OEC website about the transition to ESCT was last updated on December: <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/> Terry will continue to monitor for updates and will be attending the next state meeting in February.

H.B. No. 5379 AN ACT DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY START CT. Was introduced by Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61st Dist. “To delay implementation of Early Start CT until July 1, 2026, to allow local and regional boards of education an additional year to address issues relating to teacher contracts.”

Monitoring

Terry did a site visit in Hampton today where a file review showed documentation to be in order. While there, she met with Vikki to discuss quality standards. Terry will schedule a date in February for her next Scotland visit.

9) New Business:

Explanation of NAEYC accreditation requirements under ESCT. Programs will need to either maintain or, for new programs, achieve within three years.

10) Old Business:

- Terry will be participating in a rescheduled literacy event at SES for families in February. She and Mary will again collaborate to share information for families at Scotland Public Library on the impact of technology on children.
- Andrea gave an update about Fletcher Memorial Library. Beth Desjardin has been appointed as the new librarian. They will also be doing a Dr. Seuss program.

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Scott, seconded by Geri at 7:10 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – March 25 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