

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/AjK_AZTARv6N5RvKXRu3i0oHmUOiNUTGrzmsak-dogiY7eLZPP7u8zw0pZy_GUNI.7R6WyXJ9OiSjWq9Q?startTime=1714516430000

Passcode: e4nc&^8&

Attendance: Scott Sears, Joy Becker, Ann Knowles, Patrice Merendina, Rose Bisson, Brittany Santiago, Mary Geragotelis, Geri White, Andrea Kaye, Terry Surprenant

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of March 26, 2024 meeting minutes:** Mary moved to approve the minutes. Andrea seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Scott moved to accept Hampton’s financial report. Rose seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Scotland:** Scott moved to accept Scotland’s financial report. Geri seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Program updates:

A classroom update report was received from Scotland and placed within the shared drive before the meeting for members to view. (Hampton’s teacher has been out on leave and wasn’t able to complete this time.)

Hampton

Principal Patrice Merendina shared:

- Mrs. Stone returned to the classroom yesterday.
- Preschoolers are included in Hampton’s “Husky of the Month” program earning special awards and joining older students at the VIP lunch table when selected.
- School-wide field trip to the Fletcher Memorial Library which recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary/Arbor Day celebration. Students received saplings to bring home. Thank you to Andrea and the Rec Commission for their efforts on that event.
- Recent PD has included use of core boards for communication. Teachers and paraeducators will participate in an upcoming PD day in May when topics will include neuro-diversity and trauma-informed practices.
- The school collaborates with the Recreation Commission and is working to increase HES’ presence in the community.
- Will be updating the parent handbook in areas of health and nutrition

- More than one parent has requested a waiver for K enrollment for children who don't meet the Sept 1 cutoff. Hampton is using the DIAL assessment tool to evaluate.
- The Kindergarten teacher attended a training on play-based learning. Working on transition to Kindergarten with preschool and K teacher.
- Preschool screening is scheduled for May 16th. Will include the physical therapist in that activity.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- Following a 9-month preparation process through which the program made updates to policies and curriculum, Scotland received their NAEYC visit last Friday. It seemed to go well, and they will hear the result within 3 months.
- With a STEAM theme of "Create and Innovate" students have been engaged in science - learning about the life cycle of butterflies; viewing the solar eclipse, for examples.
- Students in K-6 participated in an Invention Convention – which preschoolers were able to attend.
- The PTO put on a Spring Festival, and is planning for teacher appreciation.
- Preschool screening is coming up in mid-May.
- There are currently 22 preschoolers enrolled and the school will continue to run 2 classrooms next year. There are also 2 Birth to Three transitions upcoming.
- EASTCONN materials are being used as a readiness inventory to guide decisions about Kindergarten enrollment if families request waivers (expecting 1, maybe 2 this year).

7) SR Liaison report

a. OEC updates

Terry received all the required documents from the programs and is currently uploading them into the online system required for grant submission. The QE grant will be the same dollar amount next year.

- b. Terry and Mary met to plan for an offering at the Scotland Public Library for families on the effects of technology on young children. May 22 at 5:00 PM. Mary is requesting sign-ups to see whether families will be bringing young children with them. It would be helpful if we could find one or two adults to assist with child care. (Parish Hill night for families with 6th graders is on the same night at 6:00 PM) There will be other opportunities if families are interested in the topic but unavailable to attend.

c. Monitoring

Terry will schedule final visits to occur in May.

8) School Readiness Quality Components

• Annual evaluation of the program.

- i) Scotland provided an opportunity for families to provide feedback and already received input. Ann will share the results. One takeaway is that families are looking for more contact with teachers. Although they use Class DOJO as a communication

- tool, many children come and go via school bus and parents don't often have a chance to see teachers in person.
- ii) Hampton has used the NAEYC family survey in the past and will be able to share with families before the end of the school year to gather data.

9) New Business:

- a. Both Hampton and Scotland will be carrying over family fees collected in May and June.

10) Old Business: None.

11) Audience for citizens: None in attendance.

12) Plan for Next Year's Meetings:

- Decided to meet 6 times (Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan, March and April), and keep to last Tuesday of the month, same time.
- Will continue to meet most months via Zoom, except when the schools host. Hampton offered to host in person in October.
- Mary mentioned that the Scotland Library is available for in person meetings as well.
- Terry will type up a list of dates and send out to the group.

13) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Scott at 7:14 PM and seconded by Geri. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – September 24, 2024 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