

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/aEkgJfR4P2Oli6YqgggKWe_VcqCIGxzdIwjbOUHpRQzIKhkDOct0cWiGeP20hr9T.ZSHGSQAlpq7VsASy?startTime=1727217128000

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

- 1) **Call to order:** Scott called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None in attendance.
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda:** None
- 4) **Approval of April 30, 2024 meeting minutes:** Mary moved to approve the minutes. Geri seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Rose moved to accept Hampton’s financial report. Joy seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed.
 - b. **Scotland:** Joy moved to accept Scotland’s financial report. Geri seconded the motion. Terry explained there are two reports because the family fees are indicated on the one dated 06/30/24. Those fees were carried over. No further discussion. The motion passed.

6) Program updates:

A classroom update report was received from Scotland teachers and placed within the shared folder before the meeting for members to view.

Hampton

Principal Patrice Merendina shared:

- There are 13 students enrolled in preschool so far, with anticipation of another turning 3 by December. This will leave 2 available spaces. Patrice has reached out to surrounding communities to invite those with wait lists to share availability with families needing a program. No replies yet.
- The program supported children and families with a family day event and staggered start.
- HES is hosting an evening family event on Oct 1st. Terry will be presenting, “Navigating Technology with Young Children.” There will also be child care food and games.
- School-wide assemblies (“Assemplays”) are focused on the theme of play-based learning.

- Professional Development this year has a focus on playful learning. Ms. Merendina coined terms: *Goodify* – ensuring access to all, and *Learnify* – using games and play as a way to meet learning goals. These concepts will guide planning and instruction. Another professional learning initiative, [Pathways to Learning for Multilingual Learners](#), an online program offered by ACES, will be utilized to increase teacher’s capacity to meet this need.
- Patrice created an account with the online translation service *Language Line* and has used it to bring a live translator into meetings with a parent for whom English is a barrier.
 - In response to Tristyn’s inquiry about use of translation in the classroom, Patrice explained that she has provided the teachers with information about the SIOP Model which is a research-based instructional model that has proven effective in addressing the academic needs of multilingual learners.

Scotland

Principal Ann Knowles shared:

- 17 children currently enrolled. There is one more SR space. One family from Windham expressed interest, but it didn’t work out.
- SES offered two Open House events for families. Their “Sneak Peek” was a daytime opportunity for families to visit the school. They also provided an evening event on Aug 29th.
- Ann is striving to increase family engagement. Have many school wide events planned – including a recent special person luncheon – and began a stamp card program.
- Installed a (student designed) book box to get donated books out to families.
- Sophie the therapy dog visits are continuing this year.
- SES will be hosting a Health and Wellness event on Oct 19th from 10:00 – 1:00. Many vendors will be present. It is open to Hampton and Chaplin and Ann will share a flyer with more information.

7) **SR Liaison report**

a. OEC updates

Terry shared that Early Start CT (ESCT) is a new state-funded early care and education program that’s launching in July 2025. It combines 3 existing programs — Child Day Care Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplement Grants — into 1 program. More information about the timeline for implementation can be found on the OEC website: <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/>

The Office of Early Childhood is hosting a public listening session via Zoom on Thursday, October 3, 6:00-7:00pm to discuss Early Start CT. This meeting will focus on feedback regarding local governance partners and the transition process for the implementation of ESCT. Terry will share the registration link with members.

b. Community Partnerships

Terry and Mary reconnected about ways to share information with families about navigating the use of technology with children. Perhaps the Health Fair would be an opportunity to get that message out in Scotland.

c. **Monitoring**

Terry has scheduled her first visits to occur in late October.

8) School Readiness Quality Components

Terry commented that several of the activities previously discussed are great examples of two of the requirements of the SR grant:

- Collaboration with other community programs and services
- Family Engagement and Partnership

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 at 7:04 PM and seconded by Geri. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting – October 29, 2024 at Hampton Elementary School. Joy offered to bring snacks!

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