

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting

November 10, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Mayor's Conference Room

Government Center

Council members present:

Farrell, Anne	UCONN Stamford
Fico, Karen	Stamford Public Schools
Fox, Bridget	Chair, School Readiness Council
Glenn, Sheila	ROSCCO
Morrow, Polly	Parent Representative/Pitney Bowes
Mullett, Alisha	Soundwaters
Reardon, Ellen	Stamford Museum and Nature Center
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sandahl, Margo	Instructional Coordinator, William Pitt
Short, Bob	Family Centers
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Church Nursery School
Zarny, Lisa	Stamford Hospital

Advisers:

Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Executive Director, CLC
Cammarota, Karen	Grants Officer, City of Stamford
Taratino, Sherry	Sacred Heart

Guests:

Ahuja, Sonja	Graustein Memorial Fund
Callahan, Pat	Stamford Public Schools
Lehman, Penny	CLC
Tseng, Christina	Stamford Hospital, Diabetic Intern

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Bridget shared that the scheduled speaker for the meeting, Amy Watson from Charter Oak, had to cancel at the last minute. Bridget will invite Amy to an upcoming meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 2010 Meeting

The Council unanimously approved the October 2010 minutes (Bob Short was the first to approve, Anne Farrell seconded).

III. Announcements

- Results Based Accountability Training (RBA) happened on November 4th. Many Council members and Blueprint committee members attended the introductory session presented by Charter Oak. There will be a follow up session scheduled in December to work more closely with the Blueprint data. The feedback was that the session in November was a good overview of the process and not too overwhelming.
- Soundwaters' Annual Meeting is Thursday, November 18th and everyone is welcome to attend.

- Sonja Ahuja shared an article on the research behind Professional Development. The article is titled, “Making Sense of the Links: Professional Development, Teacher Practices, and Student Achievement” from the Teachers College Record.
- Michele Sabia shared that the Superintendent will be hosting a Literacy Forum on Monday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at AITE. Preschool will be a focus of a break – out session and Michele will be sharing the work of the Early Childhood Blueprint.
- Karen Wenz spoke about the United Way’s Literacy event at the Ferguson Library that took place on Saturday, October 30th. Karen shared that it was a wonderful event attended by approximately 100 people promoting literacy.
- Ellen Reardon shared literature from a workshop she attended hosted at the Long Ridge School about the children learning outside and the importance of nature in teaching and learning. There was significant discussion about the importance of outside play.
- Ellen Reardon shared that the Preschool at Stamford Museum and Nature Center has its first ever display at the Museum’s art gallery beginning on December 10th. On Saturday, December 11th there will be an opening at the Gallery and children are welcome.

IV. Regular Reports

- CLC’s report had been read previously by the Council (included as an addendum to these minutes).
- Barbara shared that CLC is open for business as usual. Additionally, Missy Repko (Head Start Education Coordinator) has accepted a position assisting Head Start professional development regionally and she will be leaving her position at CLC. Barbara encouraged the Council to refer potential employees who have knowledge in early childhood and Head Start to apply.
- **Education Committee:** Anne shared that the Education Committee had a very interesting discussion about the alignment of preschool curriculum with kindergarten curriculum. The discussion reviewed the challenges of implementing a curriculum and the importance of providing on-going professional development for teachers, providing manipulatives for children and the importance of evaluating curriculum. All of these initiatives are costly. Michele shared that the Literacy Forum will be a general overview of the literacy curriculum in the public schools and the strategies that are put forth in the Early Childhood Blueprint. In regards to creating a preschool curriculum, Michele asks the question: what do we want and how are we going to create developmentally appropriate practice that will be meaningful for children? It was agreed that the conversation around creating a preschool curriculum will be brought to the Council for further input and discussion. Anne suggested that we invite the Superintendent to an upcoming SRC meeting to hear about what is happening at the curriculum level in the elementary schools and what he sees happening with CMT scores. Bridget agreed to invite him.
- **Health and Wellness Committee:** Lisa Zarny shared that the Health and Wellness Committee met on Monday, November 8th at Optimus. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to discuss their areas of focus (Nutrition, Asthma, Oral Health and Mental and Behavioral Health). The meeting was informational. The next step will be for the committee to break into smaller focus groups that will meet separately from the larger group to address issues specific to their focus. The larger group will convene regularly to share results from the smaller committee meetings.

V. Old Business

No old business.

VI. New Business

- Pat Callahan, an Instructional Coordinator with the Stamford Public Schools at William Pitt, shared with the Council information she gained at the Gesell Institute's Early Childhood Conference. The notes from her presentation are attached. There was significant discussion around the information shared at the conference and the importance of making the community at large aware of such important data.
- **Swingset Mamas Benefit Performance November 19th 2010 at the Ferguson Library:** In order to send all 930 preschool aged children from CLC and Sacred Heart to attend a performance of the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* at the Palace Theater in February. To raise funding to send children to the show (we need close to \$13,500 to cover the costs of the \$10 ticket and transportation), there will be a benefit concert by the SwingSet Mamas at the Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2011 AT THE WILLIAM PITT CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Addendum 1: CLC October Report

School Readiness Council Report
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

I. Program Utilization

- a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
- b. Ages: 3 year olds – 210; 4 year olds – 334; 5 year olds - 0
- c. Children with disabilities = 27 with IEP
7 without IEP
- d. Notes and Trends: None at this time.

II. Program Attendance:

- a. 100% Attendance
- b. Notes and trends: -

III. Staffing

- a. Open Positions – 2 Substitute Teachers;
- b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC
- c. Training:
 - Early Childhood Consultation Partnership - On-going training for staff on the partnership we will have this year addressing mental health. This will include classroom and individual child consultation.
 - Behavior Health Team went to full day Symposium in Middletown, training on social/emotional health for children.
 - “Training Wheels”. Team received full day training on October 27th, Director received ½ day training on October 29th.

- Staff Development Day occurred on Friday, October 22nd. Julie Coakley and Michele Sabia conducted training on Lesson Plans and Intentional Teaching. Nurses conducted Administering Medication/Epipen.
- Director and Instructional Coordinators attended RBA training.

IV. Special Events/Activities:

- School Photos have been taken and parents are ordering packages.
- Field trips have been scheduled for Bruce Museum and Stamford Museum and Nature Center.
- Pie Fundraiser – profits will go towards kitchen studios activities. Pies will be delivered Nov. 22nd.
- Children are all being screened using the Early Screening Instrument.
- Teachers are completing the Child Profiles and preparing for the Parent/Teacher conferences.
- Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
- Parent Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 27th.
- Fire Department visits included truck visit and a program for the children on “Fire Safety”.
- Greenwich Academy visits with the children occurred on October 8th.