



VERNON SCHOOL READINESS COUNCILS
Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 6, 2017

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
17 JUN -8 AM 11:47

Members Present: Stephanie Grant, Latrice Grumley, Peggy Stickel, Michelle Hill, Shahla Zarinejad, Renee DaSilva, Allison Altieri, Betsy Crayton, Cynthia Zingler, Jen Snyder, Karen Giangregorio,

Guest Speaker Present: Samantha Dynowski, CT Early Childhood Alliance

Welcome and Introductions

Motion to Accept the February minutes was made by Betsy Crayton and seconded by Renee DaSilva. Minutes were accepted with one abstention.

Presentation by Samantha Dynowski: "Overview of reports Infant and Toddlers of the Hartford Region, Data Compilation on Children Under Age 3" and "The Babes of Hartford of the Region" created by the Early Childhood Alliance. The reports informed communities of most recent data and prompted discussion around what data is still needed, what is not useful, and how the data can be used as a tool to drive areas of focus for the School Readiness Council moving forward.

School Readiness/PDG Updates: All but one SR of the slots and all PDG slots are full as reported by Vernon Public Schools. That vacancy is currently in process to be filled. The 18 slots at the YMCA Elm Street School are all filled.

Council Co-Chair Update – the 2017-2018 School Readiness RFP is out and to date there are 2 applicants that we know of, VPS and the YMCA. The Local RFPs must be submitted by April 17th, and the full Community RFP is due to OEC by May 17th. The Grants Committee will meet and use the prescribed rubric to rate the applications. That committee will share the results with the full council and an electronic vote will be necessary to define what organization/s will be recommended for receiving the SR grant. A discussion and decision by the Council use the \$3,000 in Quality Enhancement funds for supporting early childhood educators seeking to further their post-secondary education in the major of Early Childhood education. To date, two staff members have utilized these funds to pay for classes and are progressing.

Birth to Eight Coordinator Update – The Lions Club of Somers will be providing free vision screening at Apple Tree Daycare, Academy of Art & Learning, two YMCA sites, and the Ready Set School Fair on April 29th. The fair is starting to come together and now is a time for getting the word out to families. The Council has contracted with two school readiness experts to assess the quality of Vernon's program. One is a CLASS Certified program monitor who will observe the two classrooms that are not currently having this process done, to compare quality on the same scale. The second will do an in-depth survey of the Eleven Quality Components required of each of the six school readiness sites under the VSRC's authority to ensure the Council is able to address any issues that may arise in a timely manner. The B28 Coordinator also announced that the position was going to be absorbed by the new Family, Schools, & Community Partnerships office as of July 1, 2017 and much of the work currently being done would continue.

Member Updates: VPS announced three of their pre-k classrooms have received their NEYAC accreditation, Birth to Eight Coordinator announced that the YMCA just received their notification as well. Congratulations. The Rockville Public Library is hosting the summer reading program that starts June 16th. The theme is "Make A Better Word"

Submitted by Allison Altieri