



**Vernon School Readiness Council**  
Regular Meeting  
September 6, 2018  
BOE/Central Office, 9:30-11:00 am  
**APPROVED Minutes**

**VSRC Mission:** To ensure that every child in Vernon will start school ready to learn

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Renee Dasilva, Deb Adams, Michelle Hill, Cynthia Zingler, Melissa Isles, Jen Snyder, Suzanne Lynch, Betsy Crayton, Katie Riordan Napolitan, Shahla Zarinejad, Jill Wenz,

**II. Approval of draft meeting minutes for May 3, 2018.**

The draft meeting minutes for May 3, 2018 were reviewed. Renee Dasilva moved to accept the minutes as presented. Jen Snyder seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**III. School Readiness Grant (SR) and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) 2018-19**

**a.) Approval of proposed space allocation 2018-19**

SR liaison, Renee, explained that the 2 SR slots assigned to Maple St. were moved to a Skinner Rd. School classroom at the beginning of the school year, due to a need for an additional kindergarten classroom at Maple St. School. Renee confirmed that the families who utilized those spots were comfortable with the change and kept their child enrolled in the slot. Deb Adams expressed the main concern is if the change negatively impacted the families or prevented them from continuing their child's enrollment in the SR slots. Since this was not the case, the Council members approved this change.

**b.) PDG Budget update/ approval**

The approved PDG budget for 2018-19 was shared with the Council members. It was noted that the State's approved budget is not the most recent budget approved by the Council and that a budget revision will be submitted to OEC PDG project manager for approval. If the proposed revision has any changes from the budget originally approved by the Council, it will be presented to the Council for approval prior to submission.

**c.) SR Budget update**

The approved SR budget for 2018-19 was shared with the Council members. Again, it was noted that the approved budget differed slightly from the most recent budget approved by the VSRC. The discrepancy exists in the admin column where the VSRC approved budget allocated \$600 for other purchased services leaving 14, 707 in the salaries line to support the cost for the School Readiness Liaison. The \$600 is needed for the public notice posting for the local RFP which comes out in spring 2019. The budget vision request will be made to Deb Adams to reflect that change.

**d.) Enrollment updates:**

YMCA funded for SR: 18 full day, full year slots:

The YMCA reported that they currently have 6 SR preschool openings, due to several children enrolling in kindergarten.

VPS: funded for SR: 27 part day, part year slots and 4 school day, school year slots:

PDG: 27 improved slots and 27 expanded slots

Renee reported that all VPS state funded slots are full.

**IV. Select Annual Meeting date:**

October 4, or November 1

The Council discussed 2 possible dates to hold the VSRC Annual meeting; October 4 or November 1. After a discussion the members agreed to hold the VSRC Annual meeting on October 4, 2018 from 9:30am- 11:00am

**V. Kindergarten Registration Update:** Cynthia Zingler, Director of VPS Family School Community Partnership: The earlier kindergarten registration period (March 1- June 1) was effective in encouraging families to register their kindergarteners earlier than previous years. We will hope to get an update on the numbers of kindergarteners at our next meeting.

**VI. EASTCONN HEADSTART- Homebased Services available in Vernon:** Jen Snyder  
Jen Snyder, ERSEA Coordinator/Project Specialist for EASTCONN and Suzanne Lynch, HEADSTART home visitor, shared information about the changes in EASTCONN's Program /services this year. In lieu of classroom preschool services, EASTCONN is now providing home based, high quality, early childhood programming for families and children, ages 3-5 who are income eligible and live in Tolland County. Jen distributed a flyer with details about the program and answered many questions. She also provided a phone number for families to use to apply.

**VII. Professional Development :Renee Dasilva**

**a.) Conscious Discipline**

The VSRC allocated 2018-19 SR enhancement funds in the amount of \$3881 for the purpose of funding Conscious Discipline Training for preschool teachers who work in Vernon. It was originally planned to hold the training in late August during the week that the YMCA closes for their professional development week.

Renee reported that due to the unavailability of the Conscious Discipline Training Providers, it was not possible to schedule the Conscious Discipline training at the end of August. Renee and Tina will work together to determine another date. This training will be open to other community providers as space allows. Deb Adams from Ct. OEC reminded us that if we need to change the training to something else or use the enhancement funds in a different way than originally requested that we can make that request to her.

**VIII. Community Partner Updates:**

Partner updates were shared:

Shahla spoke of the success of the Rockville Public Library's summer reading program and highlighted the various activities they had available.

Flyers for the VPS Family School Community Partnership Laugh and Learn program were shared

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Hill

