



Vernon School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
March 7, 2019
BOE/Central Office, 9:30-11:00 am
Approved Minutes

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

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
Participants present: Michelle Hill, Kara Morse, Cynthia Zingler, Katie R Napolitan, Melissa Ross, Joan O'Donnell, Betsy Crayton, Melissa Iles, and Peggy Stickel
- II. **Approval of 2/7/19 draft meeting minutes**
Corrections regarding the spelling of names and a missing meeting participant were made to the draft minutes. A motion to approve the draft minutes with those corrections was made and unanimously passed.
- III. **School Readiness Grant (SR) and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) updates**
 - A. **Enrollment updates**
YMCA funded for SR: 18 full day, full year slots: The YMCA Sr slots are fully enrolled.
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
All VPS SR and PDG funded slots are fully enrolled. VPS Preschool offerings for 2019-20 have been established and can be found on the Vernon Public Schools website.
 - B. **Monitoring 2018-19:** Jill Mahoney has been contracted by the VSRC to monitor all SR and PDG funded classrooms. Jill will be contacting Melissa Ross from VPS and Tina Gladden from the YMCA to schedule monitoring visits.
 - C. **SR 2019-20 RFP update:**
The School readiness local RFP has been publicly posted in the Journal Inquirer. A copy of the RFP was emailed to current SR providers, and to local NAEYC Centers. The local RFP can be found on the Town of Vernon website.
 - D. **Vernon School Readiness local grant review committee, set meeting time**
The local grant review committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday April 27th at 10:00am with a back up date of April 1, 2019
- IV. **Family engagement - VSRC**
The State of Connecticut has developed a definition and framework for family engagement. The document containing the framework will be emailed to VSRC members.
Ways to have more parent voice in the VSRC was discussed. A flyer describing what School readiness is will be shared with Council members to inform and invite parents to join. It was agreed that babysitting should be provided to make it easier for parents to participate. Those members who interface with parents often were asked to invite parents to engage with the VSRC.

V. Kindergarten Registration

(Ready Set School Fair re-cap)

Cynthia provided a recap of the Ready Set School Fair event held on 2/ 23/19.

Approximately 250 people attended the event.

There were 10 completed kindergarten registrations

School Buses transported families to and from the event from various locations in Vernon

Positive feedback regarding the event was received by both families and organizations that participated.

VI. Partner updates:

- Joan O'Donnell, Director of Maple St. Family Resource Center (FRC) shared ECHN family Development Center calendar, FRC play group information, and a parenting class called, "123 Magic," which focuses on ways to support and teach positive behaviors among children.
- Katie R Napolitan, YMCA Director shared YMCA Nursery school open house information and preschool summer offerings.
- Michelle Hill shared information about the Greater Vernon Holistic Health fest organized by Youth Services and KIDSAFE's Positive Parenting Seminar Series. (Both flyers were shared and will be emailed)
- Kara Morse, Rockville Library Director for Children and Teens, shared the activity calendar and announced that June 1st the library will be holding a summer reading kick off day at Talcott Park. More details to come.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Hill

