



Vernon School Readiness Council
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2019
BOE/Central Office, 9:30-11:00 am
Draft Minutes

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members present: Michelle Hill, Joan O'Donnell, Svetlana Smith, Jen Snyder, Kara Morse, Jennifer Johnston, Tracy Jiminez, Gail Eureka, Cynthia Zingler, Betsy Crayton, Telea Shepard, Katie Napolitan, Peggy Stickel, Melissa Ross

II. Approval of 11-1-18 draft meeting minutes

A motion to accept the proposed draft meeting minutes for 1/11/19 was made and unanimously passed.

III. School Readiness Grant (SR) and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) updates

A. SR Liaison staff update:

It was announced that SR liaison, and Vernon Public Schools preschool program specialist, Renee Dasilva, has accepted a new employment opportunity, which leaves an opening for a Vernon School Readiness liaison. During the transition Michelle will work with VPS to ensure liaison duties are completed.

B. Enrollment updates

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

Katie Napolitan reported for the YMCA that 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

The monthly VPS enrollment report for December shows all Sr and PDG funded slots are full.

C. Monitoring 2018-19

Michelle shared that Jill Mahoney, who conducted the SR monitoring for 2017-18 will be asked to conduct monitoring for Vernon's Sr programs for 2018-19. A contract is being developed and monitoring is anticipated to start mid to late February.

D. SR 2019-20 RFP update

Michelle shared that the School readiness RFP for 2019-20 is expected to be released in February. Once received by Vernon, a local rfp will be publicly posted. School Readiness members who have background/ knowledge in early childhood programs and are not affiliated with a provider applying for SR funds should contact Michelle Hill if they are interested in serving on the local grant application review committee.

IV. Rockville Public Library: Children-Teen Library offerings

Jennifer Johnston, Director of the Rockville Public Library and Kara Morse, Director of the Children and Teen sections of the Library provided an overview of Library offerings and shared their vision of

the Library as a community hub for information, and resources that meet the current needs of the community. The Library will be looking for community input to develop programs and offerings. An open house will take place on Thursday, January, 31st. School Readiness Community partners are welcome to attend and provide outreach materials and information to the community during the event.

V. VSRC Meeting schedule for 2019:

The VSRC meeting schedule for school year 2019 was shared.

Meetings will take place at the Vernon Public Schools administrative offices on the first Thursday of every month at 9:30am with the exception July and August. Meeting dates are as follows:

January 3, 2019

February 7, 2019

March 7, 2019

April 4, 2019

May 2, 2019

June 6, 2019

September 5, 2019

October 3, 2019

November 7, 2019

January 9, 2020

VI. Upcoming Events:

Ready Set School Fair February 23, 2019 at VCMS (Vernon Center Middle School)

Cynthia shared that all are welcome to participate in the Ready Set School Fair and provided the details for the day. The Fair will kick off Kindergarten registration, and will feature a variety of community partners that provide programs and resources for young children. The fair is free for all families with young children. Those who are interested in participating at the event should contact Allison Altieri at aaltieri@vernon-ct.gov.

VII. Partner updates:

Members provided program updates.

ECHN Family Development Center introduced the newly hired Director of the Vernon Family Resource Center, Joan O'Donnell, who was also welcomed as a new member of the VSRC.

The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by
Michelle Hill

