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## Vernon School Readiness Council

Minutes

March 3, 2021

1:00 PM

Present: Michelle Hill, Anna Figueroa, Cynthia Zingler, Rich Durkee, Alex Veilleux-Champagne, Ruth Sales, Allison Altieri, Kara Morse, Joan O'Donnell, Simone Sewell, Shelley McCone

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

*Michelle noted she would soon provide minutes from the last meeting*

### I. Welcome Introductions:

- Anna Figueroa was welcomed and introduced to the Council as the new SR Liaison for Vernon.
- All members present introduced themselves, their organization and shared a little about what their role within Vernon
- Anna gave a brief update on her transition into this new role, her work so far on understanding the landscape in Vernon, OEC SR requirements, and current RFP underway.

### II. School Readiness grant (SR)

*Michelle led a discussion on the following:*

- the end of a 2yr. grant period (2020-2021) and time to respond to the SR RFP for 2021-2022)
- past requirement for a local RFP to be conducted by the SR Council. Due to Covid, this is not a requirement for this grant cycle. Question: "Do we want to put out an RFP, accept applications and make a decision re: funding OR do we want to continue funding as is?"

Discussion:

- Joan asked: Are there other providers that are accredited? Michelle responded that the only other accredited site in the area is Education Playcare in Ellington
- Shelley voiced her desire to keep funding amounts as is... "Status Quo"
- Joan added that due to program loyalty and hard work she, too, would like to see things remain the same
- Ruth voiced her agreement with status quo

Vote

Michelle asked for a movement to continue funding as is for 2021-2022 grant cycle.

Motion made "to continue funding as is for 2021-2022 grant cycle" by Joan

No further discussion.

None opposed.

Abstentions: Michelle, Anna, Shelley, Simone

Motion Passed.

### **Program Updates:**

Simone: All programming is in Rockville now. Another preschool classroom has been opened at this site, more I/T spaces and before and after school programming.

-The "Y" has remained steady with SR and has maintained #'s

-It has been a little harder for parent with the requirement for drop off outside, however they have made videos of what is happening indoors to share with families.

-Able to transfer all families, who wanted to, from Vernon to Rockville. Done at 375. It's "no more"

-Some teachers did lose positions. Ruth asked Simone to send these teachers her way.

Shelley: 127 (3&4); 53 (3) will roll over to 4's, 68 (4's) ready to go and have received 27 new applications. 10 moving up from I/T.

-1 teacher retired and they are in search of a Cert. Special Ed. Teacher

-Program is knee-deep in NAEYC. Visit can be 7/1-12/31 of this year. Understanding new standards vs. old standards; preparing an up to date staff handbook. Working with AQIS, Sherry Lambert (NAEYC Coach) and Shawn Marie (Curriculum and ELD's Coach)

### **Quality Enhancement (QE)**

Michelle noted we will be purchasing the Conscious Discipline subscription before close of 2020-2021 year end. Idea's and discussions for new QE dollars will be left for next meeting. A few members voiced ideas regarding Teachers/TA's who could benefit from Conscious Discipline. Also, possibility of teaming staff for training.

### **III. Ready Set School Fair**

-Allison discussed the need for information from community partners. "Please submit anything, anyway!" Handouts, videos (1-3min)

Kindergarten Registration is open on-line March 1<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>

-Other Partner update: Michelle discussed town vaccine efforts, taking registrations, and setting up clinics. Teacher and Child Care workers can now sign up. This effort has become the #1 priority for the town.

Vernon Regional Call center: 860-896-4568 working with surrounding town as well. Eligible individuals can also call ECHN or Walgreens.

### **IV. Next Meeting**

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1PM

### **V. Meeting Adjourned**

**Minutes submitted by: Anna Figueroa SR Liaison**