



RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
22 APR -4 AM 8:36

Vernon School Readiness Council  
Special Meeting  
Fully Virtual  
March 16, 2022  
1:00pm  
Draft Minutes

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Michelle Hill, Anna Figueroa, Kimberly Manganello, Betsy Crayton, Cynthia Zingler, Allison Altieri, Kaytee Walters, Joy Houlder, Sherry Yarusewicz

II. Review and Approval of draft minutes for 2/2/2022

Motion to accept minutes as presented was made by Kimberly, seconded by Betsy. All were in favor and motion passed.

III. Purpose of VSRC- School Readiness Chair Michelle Hill reviewed the following:

OEC PPT was shared a few months ago. Purposes listed below. The SR Grant is a great deal of work but the Council is broader with a focus of improving Vernon's birth to 8 system.

- 1 Empower parents to move the public will in the interest of Vernon's children.
2. Partner with businesses, families, community and other stakeholders to develop a network that will strengthen the early childhood experience for Vernon children and their families.
3. Ensure compliance with Public Act 97-259, an Act concerning School Readiness and Child Day Care.
4. Seek financial and other resources to sustain children's initiatives in Vernon.

Of note: Our SRC could use more business members (they possibly could help with getting information out and collecting data)

IV. Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration- Vernon's Better Together Initiative –

A. Status update

VBT applied for continuation funding to uplift and engage families. Additional funding has provided us an opportunity to do that.

Question: How do our meetings become more parent friendly? What can we do to make the meetings welcoming and inviting? Engaging parent as a way to improve our system?

-Allison suggested giving them something to do...not just attend meetings. Bring back baby fair. Ready, Set, School Fair- specific ways for parents to contribute.

-Families can be "hard to find" Sherry added starting with babies as an initial connection and collaborating with families.

B. Parent update

Parents have provided good ideas for the community wide family survey  
More to come on VBT updates. Next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup>

C. Accessibility of meetings

-Meeting times convenient for parents?? A number of ideas were thrown out (2 separate meetings/m, mornings difficult for parents, evening with dinner provided, one representative to bring info back and forth, alternate an afternoon/evening meeting each month)

-Anna asked Kimberly to remind us of the responses our current parents gave through a survey as to the best time to join a meeting. Kimberly responded the majority was 6pm.

This discussion was tabled in interest of time.

V. School Readiness Liaison - Grant updates

A. 2022-23 School Readiness RFP

All SRC members received RFP information for review. Original email sent on 2/23/22 for a meeting on 3/9 with all attached documents. That meeting was moved to a special meeting on 3/16/22.

Local RFP was posted both in the Journal Inquirer and the Town of Vernon Website.

- Timeline

Anna reviewed timeline. Of note is "Intent to apply" due to Anna by 3/18. Full application due by 3/25.

- Review team

We will be looking for Council members to participate in the application review process and make recommendations to the full Council on 4/6

B. 2022-23 Quality Enhancement

\$3881 in QE: Anna shared 2 ideas with draft budgets for the use of QE dollars in FY23

- 1) Purchase of classroom/family support materials for Conscious Discipline
- 2) Utilize dollars to support a new program in attaining accreditation. (Center based or FCC)

VI. Conscious Discipline Updates

This item was moved to next meeting in interest of time.

VII. Program Updates

A. Accreditation update

- B. Program Enrollment: Cynthia noted she was reporting for Shelley. VPS is accepting applications for next year. 3/22 is the first deadline for the lottery. However, applications will be accepted after this date.

Kaytee: 2 spaces are open in the infant room. Preschool is full. The "Y" is currently interviewing for a Head Teacher position.

C. Program Highlights

D. Challenges and Need

VIII. Partner Updates

Allison discussed Ready, Set, School Fair Information to go out this afternoon.

Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm (Rain date will be the following Friday)

They will be putting together bags for families ~240 bags with donations

For those who would like to participate, please let Allison know.

VBt is in! This is a great potential to meet families and share the community wide survey.