

Ellington School Readiness Council

Meeting minutes 4/18/2022, 2022

Agenda item	School Readiness Quality component	Notes
<p>Introductions</p>	<p><i>School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP C-01)</i></p>	<p><u>Members in Attendance:</u> Sandy Fowler- Ellington School Readiness Liaison Diane Lasher-Penti- Youth Family Services Becky Hinkley- Preschool of the Arts Pat Grundman- Ellington Public Library Lisa- Baby Bees Ronni Rucki- BOE Krysta Chambers, OEC Parent Cabinet</p> <p>Krysta introduced herself and described the work of the Parent Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krysta is one of 15 members of the cabinet. Two members represent each DCF region, with Statewide representatives as well. • Goal of the cabinet is to connect with parents and services for families and bring concerns back to the cabinet. • Cabinet meets monthly with /commissioner Bye. • Goal is to elevate the voices of families. <p>Krysta will connect with us again, and will keep us updated on her work with the OEC.</p>
<p>FY RFP 2023 School Readiness Grant and Quality Enhancement grant.</p>	<p><i>School Readiness GP B-04 Definition of Space Types, Categories of Care</i></p>	<p>The BOE application was the 1 application received for consideration. All acknowledged they were able to access and read the documents in the Google folder related to the FY 2023 grant application. Diane and a preschool teacher from another community read the application and scored it. Both scored the application for a</p>

		<p>total of 115 out of 125 points, with deductions taken for the licensing status (BOE programs are not licensed through the OEC) and the NAEYC Accreditation status (the BOE is currently waiting for a visit). Comments included the strong collaborations, the many resources, and the curriculum aligned with the ELDS.</p> <p>Diane made a motion, seconded by Pat, to approve the BOE RFP for funding for the FY 2023 as presented, motion carries.</p>
Quality Enhancement Grant	<i>School Readiness GP B-04 Definition of Space Types, Categories of Care</i>	<p>One QE application was received by the BOE. The requested funding includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2550.00 for training/workshops to support transition to k activities for community programs • 1331.00 for materials and supplies to support transition to K activities for community based programs <p>Pat made a motion, seconded by Diane, to approve the BOE Quality Enhancement application as presented, motion carries.</p>
New legislation pertaining to School Readiness	<i>School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP C-01)</i>	<p>A new law requires (1) that at least 25% of the membership of each local school readiness council consist of parents of program-eligible children and (2) the council to document efforts to ensure that the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic composition of the council reflects that of the town.</p> <p>Diane is heading up a small group to develop a questionnaire to gather data on Council representation, as well as optimal times to hold meetings. The survey questions have been sent to Sara who has someone at the BOE who can develop the survey. We have had difficulty recruiting family members to participate, and are considering holding at least some of the meetings at night.</p> <p>Lisa asked if employees with children can serve, and this would be a great addition to the Council.</p> <p>Pat asked about total membership, which stands now at 20.</p>

Update on Quality Components and collaborations (see below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library activities 	<i>School Readiness Council Membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP C-01)</i>	Pat Grundman shared the library held a Read to the Dog event for the Little House in the Country program. Ten children participated, mostly 4-5 year olds, who told stories to the dogs. The library provided a make a sun catcher craft at the visit. Children also received a booklet on how to approach dogs.
New Business		Next School Readiness Council Meeting will May 16, 2022 at 1:00pm
Old Business		

Quality Components

The legislation has identified specific requirements for School Readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in quality programs that meet the needs of children and families. These indicators include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child-care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education or training programs;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Referrals for health services, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from the School Readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program to the kindergarten program:
- A plan for professional development for staff;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program;
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program; and
- A plan to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs with children who are not disabled.

