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Regular Meeting
Vernon School Readiness Council
(VSRC)
Fully Virtual
May 4, 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 Members: Cynthia Zingler, Allison Altieri, Ruth Sales, Joy Houlder, Shelley McCone, Kaytee Walters, Sherry Yarusewicz, Kimberly Manganella, Michelle Hill

II. Review and Approval of draft minutes for 4/6/2022

A motion to accept the 4/6/22 draft minutes was made by Kimberly Manganella and seconded by Joy Houlder. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A. Status: Anna has been working on the application for the extension funding of the Vernon School Readiness Capacity Building grant and it was submitted. This grant will enable the VSRC to continue to work on the Vernon Better Together (VBT) Initiative to strengthen parent voice, a diversified and representative membership, and assess strengths and needs of Vernon's birth-5 system.

Update: VBT's application was approved and awarded. Funding is for the period of Jan 2022-Dec 2022. Anna was pleased to report that the approval included increasing Parent Ambassador hours to 2/hrs per month.

Ready Set School Fair resources are being collected. Survey is complete and will be ready in time for the event. Cynthia asked about timeframe for distribution of survey. Several noted importance of getting out prior to end of school year. Anna will send an email to all members with the distribution plan. Family Night Out noted as a captive audience by Ruth.

Parent update: Sherry followed up with the importance of Parent Ambassadors having more time than just enough to attend meetings. OEC monthly allotment of hours is just not enough. Sherry would like to see parents interacting more with parents, working to increase parent involvement.

IV. School Readiness Liaison - Grant updates

- A. 2022-23 School Readiness Grant Application was submitted!! This is a huge project that took a great deal of time. Very intricate, many moving parts requiring critical attention to detail. Michelle noted completing this task is no easy feat.

V. Program Updates

- A. Accreditation update
- B. Program Enrollment

Both programs are fully enrolled.

- C. Program Highlights

Kaytee- YMCA's new teacher has hit the ground running. Kaytee is feeling happy and excited. States: She's awesome! This new hire allows the Y to increase numbers and serve more families. Tours are lined up for prospective families.

The Y has purchased this huge disinfecting piece of equipment. You can put cots in it, clothes, toys etc. It kills viruses and bacteria. It adds an extra layer of disinfecting. It uses heat to sterilize.

The Open House last month went well. They demonstrated circle time and center time. They received good feedback.

Shelley- VPS has hired 2 new teachers for Northeast. 1 out of state & moving back. 1 local who has 14yrs experience in a dual role. Lottery was drawn on 4/1. Letters will be sent out to families by Friday with instructions for registration. VPS may not be able to accommodate everyone. Kaytee may get calls. Next week will be Kindergarten transition meetings so teaches can be prepared for the children coming into their classrooms. 24 later referrals. Some of these children have never interacted with other kids. Screening at Skinner. 4 kids were referred.

VI. Partner Updates

Partner updates were shared.

Allison- Joy and Allison playgroup has 12 kids. Most have not gone farther than their front door due to fear of infection. Alternating 1 day playgroup and 1 day in person "playdate". Next will be at the library the first of the month. Cynthia noted that during the playdate at the park she noticed the children first staying and playing by their parent, play then moved to parallel play and then to interaction. Parents seemed to enjoy themselves as well. Children are getting a chance to meet other children and share space.

Michelle- described new program for children who are home schooled. There was a great turnout with 15 families. Ruth gave a shout out as a great idea!

Michelle asked question regarding meeting: Virtual vs In Person- note a vote, just thoughts

Allison: virtual- more parent involvement or hybrid

Cynthia: seconded what she said (meaning Allison)- easier for providers to pop in

Kimberly: agreed

Sherry: agreed

Allison - The Ready Set School Fair will take place May 13th at Henry Park from 4:00-6:00pm

Let's get the survey questionnaire out. Captive audience "Let's Go. Be there, or Be Square" Deadline for inclusion in bags is Tues. or Wed.

The meeting was adjourned

Submitted by:

Anna Figueroa