

Griswold School Readiness Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 15th @ 9am

Griswold Elementary School (also available on online)

In attendance: Jaselyn Caviness, Alyssa Hancock, Deb Martin, Deb Poirer, Heather Lunny, Terry, Phil Michel, Jenna Motta, Joe Bordeau, Katy Sawaryn, Stephanie Cote, and Sarah McEwen.

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Program Updates:
 - The Little Log School House
 - Medication and epi recertification. The theme is winter with a focus on the letters L, H, K, and numbers 1-10. The program has worked with snow dough with a science focus. Staff have also been working on self-help skills including toileting. Final decisions to be made on the indoor gym that may be added to the building.
 - Griswold Early Education Program
 - Unit of Study winter and emotions and in the coming month will focus on letters and numbers. The staff had an Eastconn professional training on the CLASS tool training. The program is completing readiness assessment this month with progress reports being sent to families in February. Homework menus were sent to families with children eligible for kindergarten. Some highlights include the Inclusiveness rock outside of the GEEP/TVCCA entrance and gross motor groups with Ms. Tracey. There will also be an author visit next month. The community preschool screening is scheduled for March 21 and April. These days are open to all community programs to share their program, details, and ways for families to connect with the program.
 - TVCCA Little Learners

- In December the program focused on the winter season with exploration of snow. The program currently is in their construction unit with a focus on numerical skills. There will be a highlighted event called Dudette's Day, which is a day to celebrate special women in their lives. The preschool head teacher, Anna, is currently attending mentoring training. The program also received donations from Operation Warmth.
- Early Start Ct. Updates and Discussion
 - Early Childhood state funding such as School Readiness and Head Start were merged into one. Programs submitted RFAs in December with TVCCA at 18 slots, Little Log at 14 slots, and GEEP is up to 45 slots due to the change in ¼ day vs. ½ day. Competitive funding slots to hopefully be open in the next few months. There was continued discussion with programs about funding and process. There is still more information to be released by the state.
- Local Governance Partner Updates and Discussion
 - The state will provide more information in March. Council members would like to potentially become Local Governance Partners with surrounding towns like Lisbon and Voluntown.
- Financial Check-in and updates (ARPA, COLA, PP payments): Programs checked in with the financial director, Deb Martin, who provided updates.
- Preschool Screening and Enrollment Discussion
 - March 21 (4-year-old) and April 4 (3-year-old) screening registration will go live on Jan 20th, and families can register at that point. Flyers will be updated and sent to programs. The screenings will include a Lions Vision screening. Tables will be available for community programs.
- Transition to Kindergarten Discussion
 - Waiver Application for Early Entry will be required to be completed by May 1st for families interested in applying for early entrance to kindergarten if their child is born between Sept 1-Dec 31st of 2020. Waiver applications can be completed online or a copy can be picked

up in the GES main office. The website is being updated with all this information on the GES website.

- Some discussions around planning for the kindergarten transition include a kindergarten teacher joining a 10:30 Storytime at Slater Library and visiting other community programs. Get Ready for Kindergarten packets as done in previous years will be ordered again for programs. There is discussion about creating a kindergarten video previewing the kindergarten classrooms, shared spaces, and some of the learning that happens in kindergarten. It was also discussed that we might be able to plan a Meet and Greet on the Playground with incoming kindergarten students with some kindergarten students and teachers towards the middle of spring when the weather is warmer.

- Community Roundtable/upcoming events

Youth Center- Youth are returning from winter break and it has been great to get things up and running again. Basketball is currently in session with Eggtopia in the spring and May 17th with a community Yard Sale.

Slater Library- Continues to run Baby and Me Sessions 9:30, Toddler 10:30, and a program that helps children read 1,000 books before kindergarten. There is a Little Free Library outside of the Youth Center with many children's books inside. The Library is also working on several adult/youth Little Projects to be completed in the coming months.

Other:

There are currently openings in TVCCA in preschool, 0 slots in toddler/infant program. Little Log will share this information with families that may call in about enrollment.

Meeting minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by Jenna Motta, GEEP Parent and Kindergarten Teacher.