

Lisbon School Readiness Council

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023

Present: Kathy Snyder, Courtney Kinmonth, Theresa Svab, John Glover, Terry Surprenant, Parents: Francesca Brown, Angela Howard, Jessica Odaynik, Ashley Relitz, Jose Bonilla, Farael Alijandra (Scott Trepanier and Christopher Sheldon also met with Terry after the meeting to discuss the agenda items.)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:53 AM. Kathy Snyder, Co-chair facilitated the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Courtney moved to approve the minutes of the Nov 3, 2022 meeting. Theresa seconded. Members voted and the minutes were approved.

Liaison report:

- The OEC announced funding for an Infant Toddler expansion grant. Info was shared with Scott in November. Programs applying for these funds would need to create classroom(s) that meet the needs of children under 3 years and would need to be licensed by the state. The application deadline is Jan 13th. Terry will submit the necessary response to the OEC about Lisbon's intention to not apply for this grant.
- Enrollment grant Q2 application was completed by Scott this week. Completion of this one-page application entitles Lisbon to receive an additional \$2448 (\$48 per child X 17 X 3 months) for the months of Oct, Nov, Dec.
- Monthly report is due next week. This is how the program provides the Office of Early Childhood with required data.

Monitoring: Terry will be coming for her 2nd site visit on January 26th. She will observe in Courtney's classroom in the morning and will meet with program administrators that day.

NAEYC Reaccreditation: The required portfolios are nearly completed and Scott has received first contact from NAEYC to confirm the program's availability for their upcoming visit.

Council Membership: Welcome John Glover, director Norwich Regional Adult Education. John began in this position in October. He is new to adult ed but was a teacher previously and has much curriculum experience at a variety of grade levels. John will replace Jody as the adult ed representative; a position required by the grant.

Family Engagement: One parent attended in person and 5 others logged in to the meeting via Zoom. Those in attendance were welcomed and provided an opportunity to introduce themselves and provide input about the program. Some of these parents reported that they volunteer in the classrooms. One commented that she loves the program and that teachers communicate well. Two parents have early childhood education experience and knowledge of the NAEYC accreditation process.

Quality Components

There was some discussion about the opportunities for parents to be involved including attending council meetings. Terry invited parents to reach out to her (tsurprenant@eastconn.org) and/or teachers with any questions about the program. She explained that the grant has several requirements including the following about support for the families of enrolled children:

- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach
- Provide referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services

Coming Events/News/Updates:

Program updates were provided in writing to those in attendance. Terry read through the highlights for those on Zoom.

Adult Education: John described the offerings in Norwich which include basic GED, credit courses, adult basic ed, and ESL. Lisbon school personnel could let interested parents know that there is a case manager to help a new adult student set goals and create a plan. They would meet with a program facilitator who could assist with navigation of the offerings – there are various avenues depending on individual needs. Flyers went out about NAE last year. John offered to share on a new flyer for 2023 when available. Terry will provide him with Principal Sheldon’s contact info. The flyer can go out to families along with weekly newsletter. Terry suggested that school personnel with whom the families may be more familiar, might assist a parent in need of these programs with a warm hand off, especially since the program is outside of their immediate community.

School Nurse: Theresa shared that the Lion’s Club came in December for two days and completed vision screenings. Theresa also completed most hearing screenings (some children were absent and she will be completing those next). If families didn’t receive a notice, there was no concern. For any screenings that weren’t passed, families were notified and follow-up examinations were recommended. The Flu vaccine is a requirement for preschoolers. The nurse sent out lots of reminders – including a flyer about the Uncas Health offering – and followed up with specific families and reported that all have been completed. Covid cases are at a low but there were lots of Flu infections here, as has been the trend nationally.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM. The next meeting will occur on March 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Surprenant
SR Liaison

These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next School Readiness Council Meeting