

Lisbon School Readiness Council

Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022

Present: Scott Trepanier, Kathy Snyder, Christopher Sheldon, Cindy Schofield, Holly Smelser, Theresa Svab, Rebecca Overholt, Terry Surprenant

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:50 AM. Terry Surprenant, Liaison facilitated the meeting.

Terry sent email and text messages to parents to remind them about the meeting and was present at 8:30 to enable some time for their socialization. Although none were in attendance, a few parents did respond to the teachers of their intention to attend with reasons for their inability to be here. It was decided that use of a portable smart board in the meeting room would allow the option of participation via Zoom. Terry will schedule online meetings for remaining dates and will share the link.

Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to approve the minutes of the Sept 15, 2022 meeting. Kathy seconded. All members voted and the minutes were approved.

Liaison report:

2 NEW grants:

Wage Supports for Early Childhood Educators In October, Governor Lamont Announced \$70 Million in Appreciation Bonus Payments for Connecticut Child Care Workers. These funds will be used to provide bonus payments to the staff of child care providers in Connecticut, including license-exempt programs. Individual bonuses will amount to \$1,000 for full-time workers and \$400 for part-time workers. The school never received the actual grant. Terry will look into this and will send a link to the needed information.

Enrollment-based Grant Eligible programs include those with SR funding who attest that > 50% of children enrolled in School Readiness funded spaces live at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Grant funds will be awarded to currently funded programs quarterly starting July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Scott applied for this grant on Oct 25th. Terry will alert the program when funds are made available.

Monitoring:

The first monitoring visit occurred on October 25th. Terry observed in Rebecca Overholt's classroom and met with her to discuss. She also reviewed randomly selected enrollment and health files and met with Cindy and April to discuss fiscal and data reporting.

Council Membership:

Co-Chairs

Kathy will remain in the position of co-chair this year. This council has been down one co-chair since last year. Christopher offered to fill that role. Cindy made a motion to approve Christopher

Sheldon as Co-Chair of the Lisbon SR Council for a 1-year term. Holly seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Terry appreciates that the co-chairs will facilitate future meetings and assist with creation of upcoming agendas.

- Kathy will check in with Ryan Aubin at Griswold Rec to see if he has interest in joining the council.
- Jody Lefkowitz no longer works at Norwich Regional Adult Education. John Glover has replaced her as director. Terry will make contact to invite his participation.

NAEYC Reaccreditation: The team continues to prepare for their renewal site visit but haven't received word yet about when that will occur. Sheri, AQIS facilitator was on site recently to support Scott who is making progress on the program portfolio.

School Readiness Quality Components

Child Care Needs

One function of the Council is to monitor the community needs. The program currently only offers part-day spaces although several children are in attendance for full days. This is being accomplished by using both AM and PM slots and the school's before-and-after-school program. Terry explained that while there isn't an option this year to request additional funds, there is a process to convert part-day for school-day spaces and encouraged the program to consider young children's needs for rest and continuity of care.

Nutrition

During the early years, health and nutrition impacts school readiness. The SR grant requires that programs address the needs of the whole child including optimal nutrition and daily physical activity so that children develop healthy minds and bodies. Programs typically use a parent-completed questionnaire to learn about children's nutritional needs and habits. Healthy snacks are the responsibility of the parents in part-day programs. There was discussion about ways that the school addresses this component including sharing information with families about healthy snacks. There is a wellness committee at the school and this item could be discussed there to plan for other activities.

Special Education

School Readiness classrooms are required to be general education programs and should strive to enroll a natural proportion of children with disabilities, as determined by the K-12 special education percentage. In this program, all children with IEPs are in Rebecca Overholt's classroom as she has special ed certification. The ratio of children with special needs to those without are 7:10 in the AM and 8:9 in the PM. This exceeds the ratios in the older grades. The program may want to consider this when making decisions about placement and scheduling in the future. The parent(s), the School Readiness Program, and the school district's special education personnel collaborate to plan a program best suited to meet the goals in the IEP in the least restrictive environment.

Coming Events/News/Updates:

Program updates were provided in writing to the council.

- Rebecca shared that both preschool teachers have been sharing the DOTS family pages to gather family input and strive to send out communications twice per month.
- There are quality enhancement funds available to cover the cost of professional development activities for staff. Scott needs a trainer to facilitate continued work on the Pyramid Model – Anne-Marie Davidson from EASTCONN is available to do this work. Rebecca and Courtney have registered to attend a full day of training on Nov. 9th at EASTCONN called “Digging into Play.”

Lisbon Central School:

- *Movie night – A viewing of “Encanto” was planned to promote diversity.*
- *Red Ribbon Week later this month*
- *Short week upcoming due to no school on election day and Veteran’s Day.*
- *Upcoming Covid-19 vaccination clinics: Oct 19, Nov 16.*
- *Reminder letter going out to families about pre-K requirement for Flu vaccine.*
- *Will be wearing blue to raise awareness for National Diabetes Day Nov 14.*
- *The Lion’s Club will be doing vision screenings Dec 6 & 7.*
- *With the holidays approaching, food is being collected for those in need.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM. The next meeting will occur on Jan 5th.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Surprenant
SR Liaison

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