

Lisbon School Readiness Council

Meeting Minutes

Date:9/14/2023

Present: Paula Gooslin, Scott Trepanier, Christopher Sheldon, Patrick McCormack, Holly Smelser, Kathy Snyder, Courtney Kinmonth

Parents: Heather Ajuive, Laura Desmond, Jaimee Brodner, Tristan Mioduszewski, Allison Brown, Arthur Aubin Jr, Mallory

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:50 by Co-Chair Christopher Sheldon who also facilitated the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Courtney moved to approve the minutes from the May 4,2023 meeting and is seconded by Holly. All members approved.

Overview of School Readiness Program: Scott gave an overview of the school readiness program stating that it is grant funded with a requirement of working with the Office of Early Childhood and that the program must be NAEYC accredited. The school readiness grant program allows the school to offer preschool at an affordable price for families in the area. Part of the grant money they receive is for quality enhancement to the program with this money it has allowed the program to provide books at the beginning of the school year for children, take a field trip to the library last year and to pay any NAEYC fees if needed. The quality enhancement board has allowed the program to purchase a new promethean board for one of the classrooms that did not have one previously. The purchase of the promethean board with the quality enhancement funds allowed the program to create equality across the two classrooms.

Role of Council: Paula shared information about the role of the school readiness council. Each municipality has a school readiness council that's responsible for making recommendations about the school readiness grant program. School Readiness promotes health and safety and provides open access to quality programs that prepare children for formal school. Prevent or minimize developmental delays in children prior to their reaching age 5. Integrate children with disabilities into programs available to children who aren't disabled.

OEC Updates: Paula shared information about eligibility age for kindergarten age changes. Effective in the fall of 2024 children will need to turn 5 on or before September 1st of the school year in order to be automatically enrolled to enroll in school. It was asked by Mallory if

there was going to be any changes to that. Paula stated that the legislation just came into effect over the summer and towns will need to work those concerns out individually. Scott stated that the change in Kindergarten age eligibility happened over the summer and right now the focus has been getting this school year up and running and that the board of education will start to look at the changes later in the school year. Paula stated that school readiness council membership must comprise 25% of families and thanked all the parents who made time this morning to come and be a part of the meeting. Paula also stated the office of early childhood usually offers a virtual training for co-chairs in the fall and she will notify the program if/when opportunities become available. Courtney asked what the role of the co -chair was for the program. Paula stated that the role of the co -chair helps to oversee the running of the council and the current co -chair is Kathy Snyder and right now there was not a need for any elections because there have been no changes.

Quality Components: Paula spoke about the 11 quality components that the grant requires the program to meet. Paula stated that during each of our meetings we will speak a few of these components to ensure that we are meeting them. The legislation identifies 11 specific quality components requirements for School Readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in high quality programs to meet the needs of children and families: Two of these quality components are

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for the coordination of resources for children of working parents in education and or training programs. Paula stated that this is why we have members from our town library and adult education attending our meetings.
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach. I know last year there was a breakfast meet and greet to help provide more information about the council and gain parent involvement. Paula spoke about the meet and greet breakfast the council hosted last year and to see if that was something that we might be interested in hosting once again this year. Scott was able to share with the group the details from the breakfast last year. Scott stated that the breakfast took place after drop off in the cafeteria. The breakfast was for parents only and they had about 20 parents who attended. Courtney suggested that we give parents a little more time to plan because last year parents felt like they did not have enough notice. Holly also suggested planning an event for the afternoon parents after drop off or before pick up to help promote equality across the two programs. Paula will email Chris and Scott some dates to start planning the breakfast first.

Coming Events/News/Updates:

Program Updates:

Adult Education: No updates at this time

School Nurse: No updates at this time

Town Library: Flyer for infant/ toddler story times to be sent out to families

Classroom Teachers: Courtney provided the group with an update from the classrooms. Children are enjoying the start of the school year especially going to specials! There is an open house tonight for families from 5:30-6:30. Classrooms also hosted a meet and greet before the start of the school year for children and families to allow them a chance to meet and see the classroom. Courtney and Becky are working on planning a field trip to Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry. The classrooms will also start learning about Fire prevention in October.

Lisbon Schools: Chris gave an update from Lisbon schools. Tonight, is an open house at the school. A field trip to the fire house is planned for October 12th for preschoolers. Picture day is planned for October 21st. A few changes have been made to drop off but everything is running smoothly at this point.

Health Department: Patrick gave an update from the health department. Uncas Health is on the road again with its mobile health unit and is able to provide vaccines if needed but are unable to provide catch up vaccines. The mobile unit is also able to go to homes if needed.

McKinney -Vento: Scott provided the group with an overview of what McKinney- Vento is. Scott will interview a family if they have become homeless and have rights to Lisbon school. In the best interest of the child it will be decided if the child should attend Lisbon or another school. The two school districts will work together to best meet the needs of the child and family.

Fiscal Update: Scott stated that Grant money has allowed the program to get more funding.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 am. It was shared to look for school readiness council information on the school website. Thank you all for attending.

Respectfully Submitted
Paula Gooslin
SR. Liaison

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

