

## **Lisbon School Readiness Council**

Meeting Minutes

Date:9/12/2024

**Present:** Paula Gooslin, ,Holly Smelser, Kathy Snyder, Janine Sullivan, Jonathan Paradis,Megan Prosser, Thersa Svab,

**Parents:**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am by Co-Chair Kathy Snyder who also facilitated the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Kathy moved to approve the minutes from the April 28,2024 meeting and is seconded by Thersa . All members approved.

**Overview of School Readiness Program:** Janine 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 school readiness program has 4 sessions: 2 morning and 2 afternoon sessions. Megan Prosser is a new teacher in one of the classrooms. The program would like to explore the possibility of adding full day classes next year; they feel that it is a need in the community at this time. The school year is off to a wonderful start and everyone is excited.

**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 the blue ribbon panel and the hope of Early Start Connecticut is to look at community needs and to create and fund programs that meet those needs. At this time information is ever changing and Paula will keep the council posted. All funding requests for school readiness need to be submitted to the OEC by the 19th of the

month with a processing date of the 20th of the month. This is also a great time of year to make sure the programs OEC registry and NAEYC portal are up to date with any classroom staffing changings or if the program has added a new classroom.

**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. Last year there was an afternoon 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. This is a wonderful time of year to start thinking about and planning these events to meet the quality components of the grant.

The council is going to use this time to think about a possible activity for families and will speak more about this at the upcoming meeting.

- **Coming Events/News/Updates:**

Adult Education: No update at this time.

School Nurse: Theresa Health assessment forms have all come back except one child is missing but should be in by the end of this week. Flu shot reminders will be sent home to families within the next two weeks. Uncas health will be attending the school's open house this evening with a table set up with prizes and information for families.

Town Library: No update at this time.

Classroom Teachers: Megan shared that the start of the school year is going great. Children are learning the routines, and teachers are having great communication with families. The program is using Class Dojo.

Lisbon Schools: Open house is tonight!

Health Department: No update at this time.

McKinney -Vento: Janine shared with the council information about McKinney- Vento. It is a program from the state that ensures children's educational rights while experiencing homelessness. Janine just attended a monthly update and there are updates planned to this law that will benefit the children.

Fiscal Update: Cost of care for children : The projected cost of care for children this school year is 360.00 per child. There was no change to this number from last year. There was also no increase in the grant this year; all funding is staying the same from last school year.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am. Thank you all for attending.

Respectfully Submitted  
Paula Gooslin  
SR. Liaison

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