

Middletown School Readiness Council
Tuesday, April 26th, 2016
State Capitol – Room 310
210 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Members Present: Jessica Stewart, Sheila Daniels, Monica Belyea, Amy Waterman, Beverly Lawrence, Monica Belyea, Liz Frasier, Donna Marino, Izzi Greenberg, and Pat Charles. Also present: Past chair and new interim co-chair, Betsy Morgan. Please note; Members Ed Bonilla and Lina Kronenberger were in attendance for the Early Childhood Advocacy event. Ed had to return to work and Lina was detained with advocacy for Even Start.

I. Welcome & Call to Order: Following the Early Childhood Advocacy Day events, Betsy Morgan opened the meeting at 11:31A.M., welcoming everyone present. Introductions were made.

II. Acceptance of the March 16, 2016 School Readiness Council meeting minutes: Monica Belyea moved to accept the minutes from the above mentioned date. Amy Waterman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Review of School Readiness and Quality Enhancement Funding Request: Jessica noted past practice of the process around the Quality Enhancement Grant and reviewed the committee's practice noting the committee's support of the application from Sue Vivian Consulting. As noted in the proposal from the committee, \$11,375 will be awarded to Sue Vivian Consulting with the remaining \$6,625 being allocated to United Way to support current MECN (Middletown Early Childhood Network) work, including professional development, NAEYC and ELLCO support. Amy Waterman moved to accept the recommendation of the committee to award the Q.E. funds as noted above. Donna Marino seconded the motion. Liz Frasier and Izzi Greenberg were not present for the vote and Sheila Daniels abstained from voting and the motion carried unanimously with votes of support from the remaining Council members present. Jessica outlined the School Readiness proposal, noting the slot request remains the same as this current year with total funding equaling \$2,210,016. She did note two programs requested additional slots if expansion occurs. Amy Waterman moved to accept the School Readiness Grant proposal as outlined, Izzi Greenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. State of the State Budget Update: Izzi Greenberg & Liz Frasier: A lengthy discussion took place around information available to date and the uncertainty of the state budget. We are not sure of impact of the budget on early childhood issues, but some are currently threatened, including Even Start, Family School Connection and Parent Trust. New concerns around part-day/part year school readiness slots being converted to school day/school year or full day/full year slots were discussed. There has been advocacy for Middletown and the consensus was to continue to contact our representatives and senators. A follow-up letter via e-mail will be developed and sent on behalf of the Council. State Representative Matt Lesser joined the meeting and discussed current information regarding the budget and early education items of concern. The Council is appreciative of his time and attention to matters that directly impact Middletown. Representative Lesser will continue to be in touch with key Council members.

V. Adjournment: Monica Belyea moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:22P.M., Amy Waterman seconded and the motion carried. Betsy closed the meeting thanking those present for their attendance.

**The next Middletown School Readiness Council meeting will be held on
Wednesday, May 18th, 2016
at
Wilbert Snow School
299 Wadsworth St., Middletown, CT 06457
from
12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sheila C. Daniels