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Middletown School Readiness Council

12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Wilbert Snow School

299 Wadsworth St.

Middletown, CT 06457

Members Present: Christine Fahey, Liz Fraser, Izzi Greenberg, Jerome Long, Susan Macary, Donna Marino, Christine O'Grady, Kitty Robinson, Sue Sienkiewicz, and Amy Waterman. Also Present: Cindy Guerreri.

I. Welcome & Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M. Introductions were made.

II. Announcements: Donna Marino shared information about World Book Day. She will send a flyer about this event to Chris for electronic distribution to the Council. Chris circulated the agenda for the CT Early Childhood Alliance's Advocacy Day, a set of cards about early learning developed by the Alliance and on display in the hallway between the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building during the Week of the Young Child, a brochure for the Early Childhood Investigations Conference, an Middletown Press article and photo about the mayor reading to preschool children at the YMCA for the Week of the Young Child, materials and scholarship forms for the CT Storytelling Center's Festival and Conference, and the Birth through 5 News newsletter. Chris thanked Kitty Robinson for once again hosting the Week of the Young Child Art Show at the Russell Library.

III. Acceptance of the February 12, 2014 School Readiness Council meeting minutes: Izzi Greenberg moved to accept the minutes from the above mentioned date. Kitty Robinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report: was distributed, showing no real significant changes and a to-date balance of \$22,569.50 in unearned funds. There is one opening at SmartEarly Learning Center.

V. Coordinator's Report:

Monthly Summary Report: was distributed and reviewed.

New Business: The 2014-15 Quality Enhancement proposal was distributed and reviewed. Amy Waterman moved to accept the proposal and Donna Marino seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

May School Readiness Council meeting: The May School Readiness Council meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, May 14th. The Council will need to approve the Grants Committee's recommendations for the 2014-15 funding allocation, as the grant is due on May 15th.

Discovery Grant: The budget and budget justification for the 2014-15 Discovery grant, which includes the Early Literacy grant, was distributed and reviewed. Donna Marino moved to accept the budget as proposed and Amy Waterman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Federal updates: Alice is learning about the guidelines and RFP for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships and will be able to report to the Council in May on this topic and how it may impact Middletown.

PreK-K Alignment: Chris attended the Governor's PreK- Grade 3 Forum yesterday that had several national speakers who showed data that aligning PreK- Grade 3 has closed the achievement gap in other states.

Early Literacy: The action plan for next year is in development and will be shared with the Council at the May meeting.

Early Childhood Alliance: The Alliance is preparing for their annual Children's Champions Day and wants communities to submit nominations for legislators to receive this award along with the reason for the nomination. Please think about this and let Chris know your thoughts.

Documents: In the interest of time, three documents were distributed for the Council's information – Office of Early Childhood Strategic Priorities, a summary of early childhood bills, and CT Voices for Children's analysis of the Appropriation Committee's Proposed Budget for FY 2015.

Annual Community Assessment: Cindy Guerreri facilitated the annual community assessment rating and conversation, a requirement of the Discovery Grant.

Liz Fraser joined the meeting and reported that a press conference was just held at the Legislative Office Building by Senators Williams and Bye and others to announce a new proposal for universal access to preschool in CT that would use \$10 million dollars a year over ten years for bonding money for facilities renovation and \$10 million a year over ten years in Tobacco funds for operations. All spaces would be in public schools with certified teachers.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M. with thanks to those in attendance.

The next meeting of the Middletown School Readiness Council will be on

Wednesday, May 14, 2014
(Please note the change in date)
12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Wilbert Snow School
Room 230

Respectfully Submitted by:
Christine Fahey