

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2020
12:00pm
Meeting Via Zoom

SRC Members Present:

Dena Booker	SPS Family Resource Facilitator/ McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford,
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABILIS
Helma Gregorich	Parents as Teachers Network Manager, Family Centers
Elizabeth McKay	Youth Services Librarian, Ferguson Library

Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Mary Basso	Director of Child Day Care, CLC
Kathy Belmont	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Antonia Better-Wirz	Education Consultant, All Our Kin
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant
Phyllis DiFrancia	Assistant Director, CLC William Pitt
Liz Gebert	Director, JCC Kinderplace
Penny Lehman	Director, CLC Program Services
Kate Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Marie Roc	Disability and Mental Health Manager, CLC
Dr. Debby Schreiner	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Project Associate, Cradle to Career
Tara Stickney	Parent Participant, SRC Meeting Administrator
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Dori Walker	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Anna Witkowski	Director of School Readiness, CLC

I. Welcome

Terri Drew welcomed all and attendance was taken virtually.

II. Approval of Minutes

November 12, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. School Readiness Provider Reports

- SR provider reports were previously sent electronically to members and attendees for review.
- November School Readiness Provider reports are attached here as Addendum A, B, C, and D for BOE at Rippowam, CLC William Pitt, CLC Palmers Hill, CLC Westover, CLC Lathon Wider, CLC Franklin Commons and CLC Maple respectively.
- Enrique Pabon of CLC Maple discussed how grateful that they CLC has been able to safely remain open and he is proud of the hard work and creativity he sees from all of the classroom teachers with all of the COVID requirements.

IV. School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Arcuri

- First Quarter Monitoring was completed. Reports were provided to site directors for review and were signed.

- Donna attended a CLC distance learning session and noted the kids and families were engaged.
- The BOE SR classroom at Rippowam provides distance learning every Friday and has provided their families with a bag of supplies to use during distance learning.
- Fully executed First Quarter Monitoring reports were emailed to the SRC for review.
- Teachers had creative ideas for social distancing and teaching the children.
- The OEC revised the School Readiness Utilization report to provide larger programs less of a deficit during the pandemic.
- November 2020 SR Utilization Report –
 - CLC SR children enrolled: 230 out of 406 full-day enrolled, 40 out of 66 part-day distance learners, 43 out of 60 extended-day. CLC received a reimbursement of \$338,393 which includes a 25% COVID adjustment. Compared to CLC’s full reimbursement is \$345,486, there is a deficit of School Readiness funding in November of \$7,093 and a cumulative deficit since July 2020 of \$579,512.
- BOE SR Classroom at Rippowam children enrolled: 12 school-day hybrid children enrolled/ 16 when full. Earned full reimbursement of \$9,600 that includes a 25% COVID adjustment.
- In the event SR programs are forced to close, the OEC will fully fund programs for December and January that are offering some type of distance learning. After January, if a center is still required to be temporarily closed, the OEC will fund that program the part-day rate for all children that participate in distance learning.
- Distance learning professional development is being provided to the teachers.
- Distance learning rosters must be kept for each separate classroom.
- Digital Fingerprinting: Yazmin Iglesias of AOK brought to light provider fingerprinting difficulties in Stamford. Malena Louks, Community Organization Liaison of SPEF, contacted 211 and arranged for digital fingerprinting in Stamford. Two sessions are scheduled in December and one each in January and February.

V. BOE at Rippowam School Readiness Classroom Social Distance and Healthy Learning Video – Brooke Pelli, Kassie Velez

- Attendees virtually viewed the video provided by the BOE at Rippowam teaching staff.
- The video displayed how this classroom is keeping children safe through social distancing and separating supplies and learning tools.
- Each child has a separate box for each subject, sensory bin, individual toys, books, sand, etc. Brooke has been very creative with her teaching the children while keeping them safe.
- Plexiglas separates two children.

VI. Cradle to Career Update – Tashi Shuler Drakes

- C2C upcoming events - Restorative Practices Virtual Convening on Monday, January 11th and the topic is “Stories from the Streets”. Online registration.
- Additional Restorative Practices convenings will be held in February, March, April and May.
- Session 3 of the Community Racial Justice series on will be held on December 15th.

- Promoting the pushout of CT Aces Taskforce screening on December 13th – 17th. It is a Virtual film screening and discussion.

VII. Announcements

- Virtual CPR is being offered by Nathalie Tocci for experienced with CPR training on Tuesday, December 15th at 6pm for childcare providers.

VIII. Adjourn

Addendum A



Stamford Public Schools

EXCELLENCE IS THE POINT.

Stamford BOE @ Rippowam

School Readiness Council Report

November 2020

Program Utilization

Authorized Capacity: 16 School Day, School Year slots

Spaces currently occupied 12

Ages: 4 year-olds

Students with disabilities: 1

Program Attendance:

Attendance has been consistent for the most part. A few children have been absent due to colds.

Staffing:

Staffing is in place.

Training:

Teacher is working toward her 097 certification in remedial reading.

Classroom Activities for November:

Gross Motor- Shoe relay race, Turkey Tango, Feather Tossing Game, Hat Sweater, Pants and Shoes (sung to the tune of head, shoulders, knees and toes)

Art- Self-portraits, clothing collage with different fabrics, painting with fabrics, painting with socks

Writing-What is your favorite type of clothing?

Writing in sand, playdoh, different materials (markers colored pencils, stamps)

Writing on cloth & old T-shirts

Name journals- tracing lines, circles and letters in their name

Writing numbers on whiteboard- stencils

Literacy- The Cow That Went Oink, Charlie Needs a Cloak, Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks, The Night Before Thanksgiving, Froggy Gets Dressed, clapping syllables with clothing, onset-rime activities with different clothing words, Heggerty phonemic awareness curriculum

Math- sock match game, sorting clothes by season, matching clothing, button sorting, patterns with fabrics, sorting Shapes/ drawing shapes in shaving cream

Fine Motor- Zipping, buttoning, tying laces

Blocks/ Dramatic Play- Different fabric on blocks, Community helper toys, multicultural dolls- (T will ask C about the different clothing that different community helpers wear), Flannel board building with clothes

Sensory/Science: Exploring fabrics (wool, leather, satin, burlap)

Cotton ball colors (C will dip cotton balls in water color to see the changes in the cotton balls)- in relation to Pete the Cat I love my white shoes

Fine motor: finger gym (sorting beads on toothpicks, coin sorting, pulling beads out of playdoh), cutting, zipping coats, shaving cream , Clothing unit playdoh- different fabrics, people, cut outs, buttons, clothing pins, toothpicks for sewing, hands- on clothing toys (zipping, buckling, tying,, lacing), lacing clothes on dolls

Classroom Activities for December:

Dramatic Play/ Blocks- bakery materials in block bin, story props for *The Gingerbread Man*, brown paper and tape to build a gingerbread house

Math- holiday pattern block templates, gingerbread counting playdoh mats, gingerbread pattern templates, candy cane pattern, exploration bins with math manipulatives

Art- cookies for block bin, Salt Dough ornaments, gingerbread man collage, cookie cutter art, menorahs

Fine Motor- Gingerbread playdoh, beads and pipe cleaners, cutting/ripping paper

Sensory Bin- sand, measuring spoons, baking tools

Read Alouds- Gingerbread Book Unit Study(Gingerbread Man, Girl, Baby, Ninjabread Man)

Writing- names, letters with curved lines in sand, pipe cleaners

Writing Prompt- If I was a Gingerbread Man, I would _____.
My favorite Gingerbread book is _____.

Music/ Movement: Gingerbread Dance, Gingerbread Movement (run as fast

as you can, jump as fast as you can, march as fast as you can etc.)

Gross Motor- Gingerbread Man hunt

Science-baking cookies, measuring ingredients,making playdoh

Phonological Awareness: Clapping syllables and sorting with holiday words and bakery words, nonsense rhyming with holiday words, Holiday Letter Sound Bags, Heggerty

Family Project-Culture Week (each child gets a week)

Addendum B

CLC

Palmers Hill, Westover, Franklin Commons, Lathon Wider

November 2020

Program Enrollment

- Infant Room- Full
- Toddler Room- Full
- State Funded Preschool Serving 121 children total
- All classrooms are open at all CD sites

Staff Opening

- Palmers Hill Room 5 Pre K Head Teacher position (full time)

Family Engagement

- Google Classrooms for all Child Development Program classes have been set up
- GMeet with teachers/families
- Bi-weekly phone check ins to assess families need for support as well as teachers to gain family input on child's development at home
- Emails to families - Classroom Newsletter, Family Training Opportunities
- Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families
- Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Welcome New Members, 11/18

Virtual Meetings/Trainings

- CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)
- Alliance Meetings (Monday-Wednesday-Friday)
- Child Development Education Team Meeting (Weekly)
- G Suite Tech Trainings (Monthly)
- CD Head teacher's Meeting, 11/5
- SR Council Director Call, 11/6
- OEC Town Hall Webinar, 11/6
- CLC Education Committee Meeting, -Distance Learning, 11/12
- SR Council Meeting, 11/12
- CLC FACE Committee Meeting, 11/13
- CLC Board of Directors Meeting, 11/17
- SR/CD Nutrition, health, FS and Ed Meeting, 11/19
- SC2C CAN Meeting, 11/19
- OEC Listening session with Beth Bye, 11/20

Volunteers/ Collaboration

- A big thank you to PepsiCo Finance Control for a generous book donation. Every Child Development preschool classroom received 5 different titles all dealing with building equity. In this photo the teacher is reading, “Hair Love” by Matthew Cherry.

Classroom Learning Experiences

- Teachers continue with children and families, using stories, visual reminders, and time to practice and adjust to wearing masks. They continue to educate children on how to wear their mask, when to remove it, where to store it and other steps to keep their mask clean and sanitary.
- As temperatures drop, outdoor learning experiences are still part of every day’s plan although it is becoming increasingly more difficult.
- This month's Author study focused on Maurice Sendak. Many stories were read, and favorite stories were extended and developed throughout the curriculum. A favorite was Where the Wild Things Are. A classroom recreated the story by painting a backdrop of Max's bedroom, and the island where the wild things lived. They built his special boat out of boxes, and made the characters out of paper plates. Keeping social distancing each child got to act out the story taking turns playing Max, and the Wild Things.

An extension of the story, Chicken Soup with Rice by Maurice Sendak, soup



❖ Painting the island backdrop.

❖ Playing Max in his special boat.

Teachers asked the nutrition department to provide chicken with rice for lunch. This picture a teacher is reading the



story as the children had soup for lunch.



❖ A Home/School connection
A classroom sent home



activity,

(virtually)the book, *Look What I Did With A Leaf* by Morteza E. Sohi. Families were asked to read the story and then go for a walk to collect leaves with their child. They were instructed to make whatever they wanted with collected leaves. Here are some of the imaginative creations brought into school to be shared and enjoyed by all.



Addendum C

School Readiness Report

Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

November 2020

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
 - b. Enrolled: 58 (just SR rooms)
 - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds- 27; 4 year olds-30; 5 year olds-0
 - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
 - e. Average Daily Attendance: 95%
 - f. Number of children attending on site- 55
 - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- 3
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 73% of slot Utilization – November

CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:
 - Open Positions- Room 10 Teacher Aide, Room 10 Assistant Teacher
- Activities/Enrichment/Specials:

Teachers prepared lesson plans based on the CTELDS and focused on the following units of study: Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes; Farms, Markets & Food
- Monthly Meetings:

<p>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usage of Intentional Teaching Experiences from Creative Curriculum through TSG online.	<p>Staff Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Virtual CLASS observations through a consultant. Feedback provided to classrooms virutally through zoom.-	<p><u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences took place on 11/20
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- Next Month
 - a. Policy Council
 - b. SHINE PDM Check in
 - c. SR Council Meeting



Addendum D

School Readiness Report

Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County

November 2020

CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 8-5pm (M-F)
5 sessions offered: 8-3:30pm, 8:30-4pm, 9-4:30pm, 8-5pm, 9:30-5pm

Total number classrooms open SR: 17 (William Pitt-13, Lockwood-4)

William Pitt has 5 classrooms closed.

Total children enrolled SR: 201

Lockwood classrooms total: 49 children

William Pitt classrooms total: 152 children

Staggered times for drop off and pick up has allowed for social distancing of families. Provided separate entrances and traffic patterns in the building. Children and teachers are required to wear masks. Teachers provide children mask breaks through-out the day.

- **Staffing:**
Staff patterns have been adjusted to meet the needs of each cohort with limited intermingling or sharing of staff. Each cluster is a cohort and averages 25 children. Staff shifts have remained the same in total hours worked, but times have been adjusted to accommodate the changes in drop off and pick up of children.
- **Curriculum Focus:**
 - a. Teachers are preparing **Learning Experience Plans** based on the CTEDLS and the individual needs of the children.
 - b. Teachers focusing on **Preschool RULER**- Reinforcing Emotional Intelligence in the classroom. Especially during the pandemic, this area has been addressed carefully. New language and routines for children include; mask, social distancing, change in classroom environment, individual art supplies, smaller class size, sanitizer use, etc.
 - c. **Family Support:** Due to new protocols which prohibits families access to the classroom for safety precautions, teachers reach out to families to share information about their child's day through:
 1. Newsletters
 2. Weekly phone calls from teachers
 3. Emails
 4. Monthly phone calls from Educ Coordinators

- a. **Distance Learning:** Allows teachers to reach children at home who are not in the classroom and gives teachers a chance to make a connection with families. 48 children are enrolled in Distance Learning. The 48 children are divided into 4 classes. The enrollment consists of many families that would have been our part day children. These families have decided not to send their children into the building for various reasons. Lockwood is not participating in DL at this time.

Distance learning is offered 5 days/week and includes:

- a. Weekly phone calls/emails
 - b. Zoom class or Google class (20 minutes approx.)
 - c. Distance Learning Grid- emailed home (monthly)
 - d. Video Conferences
- **Monthly Meetings:** All virtual
 - a. Education Coordinators
 - b. Instructional Coordinators
 - c. Head Teacher
 - d. Cluster/classroom meeting
 - e. Component
 - f. SRBI
 - **Professional Development:** Virtual
 - a. Assessments and Referrals- IC's 11/30
 - b. Understanding Restorative Practices- Cradle to Career- 11/2
 - c. Helping Parents through Distance Learning-11/10, 11/18, 11/23
 - **Family Engagement:** Virtual
 - a. Meet & Greet (Eng/ Spa sessions) 11/24
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 - **Next Month:**
 - a. Bookmobile- limited access
 - b. Professional Development
 - c. Distance Learning
 - d. Parent Advisory Council

