

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021
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
Elizabeth McKay	Youth Services Librarian, Ferguson Library

Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Linda Barge	Education Manager, CLC Child Day Care Programs
Mary Basso	Director of Child Day Care, CLC
Kathy Belmont	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Antonia Better-Wirz	Assoc. Dir. Provider Showcase Ed. Coach / Consultant, AOK Stamford / Norwalk
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Cody	Assistant Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Kayla Daniel	Care Coordinator, Child First
Phyllis DiFrancia	Assistant Director, CLC William Pitt
Jane Faherty	Director, JCC Jumpstart
Liz Gebert	Director, JCC Kinderplace
Beth Genovese	Education Coordinator, CLC
Marsha Guthrie	Director, CLC Head Start
Penny Lehman	Director, CLC Program Services
Alex Morris	Education Coordinator, CLC
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Marie Roc	Disability and Mental Health Manager, CLC
Ellen Reardon	Co-Director, Stamford Museum and Nature Center Preschool
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Project Associate, Stamford C2C, UW of Western Connecticut
Inge-Lise Titherage	Early Childhood Consultant, ECCP
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Dori Walker	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Anna Witkowski	Director of School Readiness, CLC

I. Welcome

Karen Feder welcomed all and attendance was taken virtually.

II. Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

III. School Readiness Provider Reports

- SR provider reports were sent electronically to members and attendees for review. No questions were asked.
- February, 2021 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.

School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Arcuri

- February SR utilization - Full Day 236 / 406 available, Part Day/ Distance Learning 36 / 66, Extended day 44 / 60 and School day 13 / 16.
- The OEC will continue to provide SR and CDC funded classrooms full funding for March, no matter utilization. Classrooms are expected to provide remote learning options for families in accordance with OEC guidelines in posted memos. Attendance and participation are being collected and retained for the SRC and OEC.
- Many daycare providers were vaccinated last Saturday and continue to be vaccinated. Lauren from the IC collaborated with CHC to reserve appointments for local daycare providers. Stamford's Health Department is also collecting information to share with Stamford Hospital. Stamford Hospital will then set up appointments with those providers.
- State funded second quarter monitoring was completed this month and the 3rd quarter monitoring sessions will begin at the end of this month through April. Directors have received their second quarter reports for review and signature. SRC members will receive copies of the reports once they have been signed. Third quarter monitoring will focus on teaching requirements and professional development requirements. Health files are monitored by a registered nurse will be confirmed by the School Readiness Liaison, Staff Professional Development plans will be reviewed, QSM compliance plans will be reviewed, NAEYC Accreditation Candidacy Reports will be reviewed with each Director to confirm that the OEC registry has been uploaded and up to date, staff and classrooms are in compliance with health and safety standards.
- Technology training and "Here to Help" link sent to preschool programs for family and program support.
- FY22 SR and QE grant applications have been emailed to Stamford's current providers – It was decided last month to mirror FY21 Quality Enhancement funding for FY22. The OEC will consider FY 22 a continuation year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The due date is April 2.
- The governor announced class size will be increased to 20 on March 31 but guidance has not been sent from the OEC.

IV. Funded Classroom and Teacher Highlight Head Start /SR Extended Day Room 7– Enrique Pabon, CLC Maple

- Enrique created a video of Maple Avenue Room 7 and the Teaching team of Alicia McMillan and Aletha Hinton.
- Marsha Guthrie, Director and Enrique chose to highlight this classroom because of the team work displayed by the teaching staff and ability to switch gears immediately when needed. This team has flourished through any additional struggles they have had during the pandemic. Warmth is felt even virtually.
- Enrique shared a video of the classroom and teachers that included projects the children were working on that aligned to their unit on clothes. He showed bulletin boards of self-portraits and patterning artwork.

V. 4th Quarter Classroom Observation Overview – Kendra Brown, SPS

- Kendra reminded attendees that they are using a rubric for classroom observations with that the SPS early childhood team created with Margie Gillis of Literacy How.
- During FY20, the team focused on environment and literacy during classroom observation and saw great results.

- This year during FY21, the team will focus on read-aloud lessons. IC's have already put professional development in place for read-aloud instruction.
- A meeting with directors is upcoming on how to do read-aloud classroom observation virtually.

VI. Cradle to Career Update – Tashi Shuler Drakes, Project Associate

- Community racial justice series will continue today. The Origin of White People.
- “Lies My Teacher Told Me and How to Avoid Them” conversation with Author James Lowan at 7pm.
- “Jodie’s Story _Raising a Transgender Black Child” March 18 at 7pm
- Early Literacy professional development session March 24 at 12:30 pm
- Early Childhood virtual event on April 14. Save the Date.
- Cradle to Career is Hiring Sparkler Parent Liaisons, Literacy Coaches, Literacy Coordinator and College Counselors.

VII. Adjourn

Addendum A

School Readiness Report
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.
Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

February 2021

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
 - b. Enrolled: 57 (just SR rooms)
 - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds- 26; 4 year olds-31; 5 year olds-0
 - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 9
 - e. Average Daily Attendance: 85%
 - f. Number of children attending on site- 54
 - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- 3
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 71% of slot Utilization –February

CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:
 - Open Positions-, Room 2 Teacher Aide, Room 7 Head Teacher, Room 10 Teacher Aide,

- Activities/Enrichment/Specials:

Teachers prepared lesson plans based on the CTELDS and focused on the following units of study: Clothes from the Creative Curriculum

- Monthly Meetings:

Curriculum Collaboration Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of Creative Curriculum 1st units of study “Clothes”• Next unit of study will focus on “Trees”	Staff Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual CLASS Coaching for HS/SR classrooms at Maple• Training from Teaching Strategies on exploring the “Teach” section (lesson planning) on TS Gold.	<u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Filling in the blanks dry goods food distribution
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- Next Month
 - a. Policy Council
 - b. T&TA Meeting with New England Head Start T&TA Network
 - c. SR Council Meeting
 - d. Teaching Strategies Gold Training

Addendum B

CLC Palmers Hill, Westover, Franklin Commons, Lathon Wider February 2021

Program Enrollment

- State Funded Preschool Serving 124 children with all CD classrooms open

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 where teachers share pictures, classroom activities, upcoming events and suggest home activities for children and families to engage in
- GMeet with teachers/families
- 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 Support Opportunities/Community Info/SPS Kindergarten Registration Information
- Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families
- Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, 2/18, SPS Kindergarten Registration Overview and Q&A

Virtual Meetings/Trainings

- CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)
- Alliance Meetings (Monday&Wednesday)
- Child Development Education Team Meeting (Weekly)
- G Suite Tech Trainings (as needed)
- Standards, Curriculum, & Assessments Training, with CES, Liz Parmelee, for 8 CD teachers, once per month, January through June.
- SR Council Director Call, 2/3
- CD Head Teachers Meeting, 2/10
- SR Council Meeting, 2/11
- Honoring Diversity in Authentic Family Engagement Training, Elsa Jones, 2/12
- SC2C , 0-5 CAN Meeting, 2/18
- CLC FACE Committee Meeting, 2/19
- CLC Education Committee Meeting, 2/23
- Shaken Baby Syndrome Training, for Infant and Toddler Teachers, 2/25
- CLC Distance Learning Committee Meeting, 2/26

Volunteers/ Collaboration

- CLC Youth Board Members -Donation of 'Take Home Art Kits' for our CD children

Classroom Learning Experiences

- Weather permitting, outdoor learning experiences are still part of every day's plan. Classrooms have scheduled nature walks where children observe the ever-changing environment and look for winter animals.

- This month's Author Study focused on Ezra Jack Keats. Many of his books were read, and favorite stories were extended and developed throughout the curriculum. Following the reading of, *Louie* by Keats, the children created puppets to use in a puppet theater built with their teachers. They reenacted the story while creating new characters and alternative endings to make it a story of their own.

Home/School Connection Activity

- Through the use of Google Classroom the teachers continue to post classroom songs, games, finger plays, etc so parents can sing along and play at home with their child.
- During the month children wrote letters to their families and in turn the families were asked write letters to their child. The parents brought the letter to school and 'mailed' the letter in a mail box the class made. Teachers and children then shared the family letters throughout the day.
- Families were asked to take a winter walk with their child to observe winter animals and the changing environment. The children drew pictures of the animals they observed and brought their pictures to school to share with teachers and friends.

Addendum C

School Readiness Report
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County
February 2021

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: 210
Lockwood classrooms total: 50 children
William Pitt classrooms total: 160 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 CTELDS 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
 5. Monthly Family Engagement Plan
 6. Daily Google meets during building closure

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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. 42 children are enrolled in Distance Learning. The 42 children are divided into 4 classes. The enrollment consists of many families that would have been our part day program. These families have decided not to send their children into the building for various reasons.

Distance learning is offered 5 days/week and includes:

1. Weekly phone calls/emails
2. Google meet/classroom (twice /week for 30 minutes)
3. Distance Learning Grid- emailed home (monthly)
4. 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:**

- a. Curriculum: Teaching Math Skills in Preschool- Ed Coordinator-Feb. 22
- b. Language & Literacy- Read Alouds-IC- Feb 11
- c. Honoring Diversity in Family Engagement- Elsa Jones- Feb 12
- d. Preparing your Child Emotionally for the CLC Experience- Columbia (NSP)- Feb 12

- **Family Engagement:** Virtual
 - a. Parent Advisory Council- Feb. 3
 - b. Parent/Teacher conferences-completed
 - c. Distance Learning for all enrolled children
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Next Month:

- a. Bookmobile- limited access
- b. Professional Development
- c. Distance Learning
- d. Parent Advisory Council

Addendum D

Stamford BOE @ Rippowam
School Readiness Council Report

February 2021

- **Program Utilization**
 - a. Authorized Capacity: 16 School Day, School Year slots
 - b. Spaces currently occupied 13
 - c. Ages: 4 year-olds
 - d. Students with disabilities: 3
- **Program Attendance:**
 - Attendance has been consistent for the most part.
 - **Staffing:**
Staffing is in place.
 - **Training:**
 - a. Teacher is working toward her 097 certification in remedial reading.
 - b. Teacher and para will attend diversity training this month

Classroom Activities for February

Unit of Study- Healthy Habits/ Kindness

Literacy: Repeated Interactive Read Alouds- Fill A Bucket, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Napping House

Blocks/ Dramatic Play: dentist materials & healthy foods

Math: Sorting healthy foods, measuring food containers with cubes/ teddy bears, heart counting, sorting healthy vs. not healthy foods, longer/ shorter activities

Art: painting with toothbrushes, healthy food collages, heart collage, February self-portrait, kindness letters/ projects

Writing: Healthy food words, Valentine's Day letters, "I love _____", healthy grocery list, writing name, letters in sand

Science/ Sensory: rice with Valentine's Day objects and letters on hearts, measuring cups

Social emotional: Breathing techniques, Compliment circle, kindness chain

Fine motor: beading, dental playdoh center, flossing playdoh/legos

Homeschool Connection: Decorate a Heart, culture week, Google classroom activities

Classroom Activities for March:

Theme: Dream Big, Be Kind, Accept All

Blocks/ Dramatic play: pretend play food from different countries, cultural people in blocks, building a leprechaun trap

Math: measuring items with nonstandard units (cubes, teddy bears), sorting by shape, size, texture, exploration with 2-D and 3-D shapes, sorting by 2-d & 3 D shapes

Art: marble painting, self portraits, Jackie Robinson uniform painting, exercise collage, handprint diversity project, exploration with individual collage box

Writing: writing names, whiteboards, sand writing

Science/ Sensory: sensory bins (sand, water, beads), floam, rice, pom poms, pipe cleaners, variety of containers
-sensory bins (sand, water, beads)

STEM: Red cups/ index cards- building with red cups and index cards,
Discovery: a variety of empty and clean plastic water bottles with lids; scale; markers; tape; sand; scoops; funnels

Literacy: Heggerty, writing letters with a variety of materials

Homeschool Connection: Culture week study, Google Classroom, ClassDojo, Parent Teacher Conferences