

Stamford School Readiness Council
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
12:00pm

SRC Members Present:

Nina Clark	Director, CP Kids at Chelsea Piers
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford
Michael Fernandes	Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent Designee
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABILIS
Helma Gregorich	Senior Program Mgr./Clinical Supervisor, Parents as Teachers, Family Centers
Elizabeth McKay	Youth Services Librarian, Ferguson Library
Lauren Secko-Pagan	Director of Early Childhood, Education Station at the Italian Center
Tara Stickney	Parent Participant

Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Linda Barge	CDC Education Manager, CLC
Mary Basso	Director of Child Day Care, CLC
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Anita Carpenter	Grants Officer, City of Stamford
Lisa Cody	Assistant Direct of Early Childhood, SPS
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant, Parent Liaison C2C
Betty Davila	Instructional Coordinator, SPS
Phyllis DiFrancia	Director of School Readiness, CLC
Liz Gebert	Director, Kinderplace
Beth Genovese	SR Education Manager, CLC
Marsha Guthrie	Director, CLC Maple Ave. and CLC Early Head Start
Penny Lehman	Director Program Services, CLC
Alex Morris	Education Coordinator, CLC
Kate Lynd Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Brooke Nilsen	Director, First United Methodist Nursery School
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Jennifer Reberon	Assistant Director, Pipers Hill
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Project and Community Engagement Manager, Stamford C2C
Jacqueline Sweeney	Youth Intern, Ferguson Library
Anna Witkowski	Chief Education Officer, CLC

I. Welcome/Quorum

Karen Feder welcomed all. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and the School Readiness Council minutes for the September, 2021 were approved.

II. School Readiness Provider September 2021 – School Readiness Program Directors

Provider reports attached as Addendums A, B, C and D.

Enrique Pabon announced that CLC Maple Avenue has partnered with Intempo. Intempo is a community agency that provides cultural music and movement. CLC Maple Avenue has been and will be partnering with them with the children in their classrooms.

III. School Readiness Liaison Update – Donna Arcuri

- September School Readiness Utilization - (CLC) FD-277/425, /DL-27/28 ED 42 /60- CLC's payment was less \$29,041 including 25% supplement from the OEC (BOE) SD 13/16- \$9600 – Full reimbursement with the 25% supplement.

- SRC new Voting membership were welcomed.
- CLC Staff changes and promotions were announced –
 - ✓ CLC has establishment a new role. Chief Education Officer (CEDO) for CLC. Anna Witkowski has been promoted to this role. All education, program and content functions will report to the CEDO.
 - ✓ Phyllis DiFrancia, Director of School Readiness Programs.
 - ✓ Beth Genovese, Education Manager of School Readiness Programs.
 - ✓ Linda Barge, promoted to Assistant Director of Child Development Programs.
- The OEC has resumed in person program monitoring. This will include Single State Audit monitoring, per site budget and expenditure report, classroom quality and fiscal monitoring
- The Governor extended OEC executive orders until Feb. 15, 2022.
- NAEYC Accreditation funds are available from the OEC.
- “Read to Grow” has provided books for all children enrolled in Stamford’s state funded programs. Betty Davila’s daughter Sophia has volunteered to sort and deliver. All sites should have books for each child to take home by the end of Oct.
- “Read to Grow” asks that parents email pics to be posted on Social Media.
- Emendya Diaz, Workforce Development Director of B1C has been providing information regarding classes, employment opportunities, volunteering and much more. Please continue to share this information with the families you serve.
- Supplemental Admin funds – I have begun meeting with Literacy How and will have at least 8 trainings and classroom observations.
- Donna is exploring the possibility of Circle of Security to host a session in Stamford as well as Liaison CLASS Training.
- C4K parent fees will be paid by the OEC until the end of November 2021
- OEC Policy B-06
 - ✓ In maintaining compliance to OEC Policy B-06. SPS will be providing itinerant services to children in School Readiness classrooms.
 - ✓ Kendra Brown joined the discussion regarding B-06 and explained that SPS will be providing itinerant services at most CLC locations. The goal is to work with all programs but intentionally working slowly in expanding the program to insure success.
 - ✓ The classroom teachers at APPLES and CLC teachers are collaborating and meeting once to per month to insure children will receive a seamless day.
 - ✓ SPS plans to will include private preschool providers in this collaboration.
 - ✓ SRBI in preschool is continuing. Private providers please reach out if you require any guidance.
- Karen Feder reported that she and Terri Drew attended the OEC SRC Co-chair overview.

IV. Classroom Presentation – Family Connection/ Ruler Mood Meter – Luz Tsiralidis, CLC Palmers Hill Room 9

- Home and School Connection was adopted in Luz’s classroom because “Come Visit with Me” has been suspended due to COVID.
- Parents are provided instructions in both English and Spanish.
- Parents are encouraged to share pictures of their home lesson.
- Parents are provided materials to extend a lesson from the classroom at home.
- September’s lesson was on Social and Emotional development and the use of the “Mood Meter” helping children express their feelings.

- The Mood Meter uses color to describe emotions.
- Parents were provided with materials to create their own Mood Meter

V. Cradle to Career Update – Tashi Shuler-Drakes

- Stamford C2C has hired 3 Parent Liaisons
- Currently hiring a Community Coordinator.
- Sparkler is now available for Stamford families for no charge. Job announcements has been distributed throughout the community and Cradle to Career will also partner with the SRC to include Ambassadors with appropriately aged children to participate with the SRC.

VI. Announcements

- Liz McKay announced that Ferguson Library is still offering outdoor story time at 10:15 at Latham Park.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Addendum A

Stamford BOE @ Rippowam School Readiness Council Report

September 2021

September focus Area: School (materials, routines, playing with friends) and All About Me (learning about each other, differences, similarities)

Focus question: *What can I do at school?*

Rules/ Routines:

- Morning meeting routines (greetings, morning message)
- Introduce Classroom routines (class jobs, schedule, eating, playground, bathroom, hand washing)
- Discovery of classroom materials (markers, crayons, scissors, blocks, paper, glue etc.)

Math:

- All About Me graphs (favorite ice cream, favorite color, favorite fruit, favorite TV show, hair color, eye color)
- Exploring a variety of classroom manipulatives (pattern blocks, shapes, color sorting)

Art:

- Body Collages: Children will decorate person cutouts with various materials
- Buddy Painting: Children will paint with each other
- Exploring a variety of materials (crayons, markers, scissors, paint, collage materials)
- Self Portraits

Literacy:

- Phonological Awareness Listening Activities
- Clapping Syllables in names, school materials
- Vocabulary: Materials I can use at school and why

Writing:

- Writing names
- Exploring different materials (crayons, markers, whiteboards, whiteboard markers, pencils, colored pencils)
- Writing types of lines (curved, straight, zig zag, swirls)

Fine Motor:

- Finger exercises: Explore different materials to build finger muscles (little rubberbands, squeezing tennis balls, picking beads out of slime, sorting beads with tweezers)
- Holding crayons/ markers to write name
- Ripping paper/ cutting fringe/ practicing how to use scissors properly

Social- Emotional:

- How to be a friend: kindness chain, good/ bad friend sorting, role playing kindness with puppets

Science:

- 5 Senses: I Spy Sensory Bottles, Smelling a variety of smells, feeling different materials, taste tests
- Exploring a variety of science materials: magnets, feathers, STEM blocks, magnifying glasses

Read Alouds:

- The Night Before Preschool, Llama Llama the Bully Goat, Llama Llama Time to Share, Rainbow Fish, Brown Bear Brown Bear, Eyes Nose Fingers and Toes, The School Book, I like Me!, It's Okay to Be Different, Only One You

Family Connection:

- Class Dojo
- Letters to and from home
- Family- Home Project: All About Me page

Dramatic Play:

- Exploring kitchen materials and taking on roles of different people

Blocks:

- Pictures of students and families on blocks, Pictures & words of buildings in the community that they can build

October 2021

Theme:

- Fall- "What happens in fall?"

Literacy:

- Heggerty- phonological awareness listening games, writing names

Math:

- Counting leaves, sorting apples by color/ shape/ size, counting apples in ten frame with pom poms & tweezers, pattern block building

Science:

- Exploring pumpkins & apple with magnifying glasses and other science tools, nature walks and using 5 senses to record change in seasons, Sink or float with fall items

STEM/ Blocks:

- apple tree building with craft rolls & popsicle sticks, farm animals in block center and visuals

Sensory:

- Fall sensory bin with nature walk materials Ten red apples sensory bin

Gross Motor:

- Raking leaves, parachute with leaves

Social emotional:

- RULER/ Mood meter implementation

Interactive Read Aloud:

- Ten Red Apples, Leaf Man, Pumpkin Pumpkin, Brown Bear Brown Bear, nonfiction texts about fall

Dramatic Play:

- Pumpkin Patch

Art:

- Making pumpkins out of paper bags, Nature collage, Leaf Man, Apple stamping, buddy painting, self portrait

Writing:

- If I was leaf man, I would go _____, Fall words in writing center, Fall colored crayons/ markers, Fall paper, writing names

Blocks:

- Fall pictures, leaves, rakes, pumpkins, farm animals

Fine Motor:

- Finger exercises: putting beads on toothpicks, sorting marbles with tweezers, cutting playdoh with scissors, pulling beads out of playdoh

Family Connection:

- Class Dojo, Google Classroom, Email, October Family Project- decorate a pumpkin, Fall Fest (PTA night)

Addendum B

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

CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 7:30am-5:30pm (M-F)
William Pitt has 1 classroom closed.

Total children enrolled SR: 276

Lockwood classrooms total: 36 children

William Pitt classrooms total: 240 children

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. Family members are also required to wear a mask for drop off and pick up. Families do not enter our buildings.

- **Staffing:**

Each cluster is a cohort. 2 classes at Lockwood are a cohort.

Open positions include: (1) Head Teacher, (2) Assistant Teachers, (3) Teacher Aide Full time, (4) Teacher Aide Part time. All classrooms satisfy QSM requirements.

- **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.
- c. **Monitoring of Classrooms:** Environments -Educ Coordinators
- d. **Family Support/Engagement:** Due to Covid 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- monthly
2. Weekly phone calls from teachers
3. Emails - check in, including photos
4. Monthly phone calls from Educ Coordinators
5. Monthly Family Engagement Grid-emailed to families

- **Collaborations/Donations/Volunteers**

- a. Columbia: Nurture Science Intervention Program
- b. Stepping Stones
- c. Filling in the Blanks- Lockwood
- d. Co-Educators 3.0 -Family Centers
- e. SPS
- f. Bruce Museum

- **Specials/Family Engagement:**

- a. Parent Advisory Council 9/22
- b. Lunch & Learn 9/22- Columbia Nurture Science Program
- c. Breakfast To Go- Meet & Greet-9/24
- d. Parent volunteer: Read Aloud- virtual 9/29

- **Monthly Meetings:** All virtual

- a. Education Coordinators
- b. Instructional Coordinators

- c. Head Teacher
 - d. Cluster/classroom meeting
 - e. Component
 - f. SRBI
 - g. Apples/Itinerant services

- **Professional Development:**
 - a. Classroom Environment -Guided Discovery 9/10
 - b. STEAM: (Stepping Stones) 9/15, 9/29
 - c. Google Classroom 9/22-29
 - d. NAEYC criteria: Admin 9/28
 - e. Adult Supervision 9/30

- **Next Month:**
 - a. Bookmobile- limited access
 - b. Professional Development
 - c. Parent Advisory Council
 - d. Lunch & Learn
 - e. Pop up Webinars



Breakfast To Go: Meet & Greet with Families at WP

Addendum C

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

Program Enrollment

- State Funded Preschool September-133

Staffing

Child Development Program teacher positions openings:

- Teacher Aide (CD Floater)
- Teacher Aide (PH Room 8)
- Assistant Teacher (Lathon Wider Room A)
- Head Teacher (Lathon Wider Room C)

Special Classrooms Events

- Bookmobile Visits
- Music with Lizzie Swan

Parent Engagement

- Google Classroom- All Child Development Program classes use Google Classroom to communicate with their families. Teachers share pictures, classroom activities, and upcoming events. A Family Learning Plan is also shared with suggestions of activities to help extend classroom learning to the home environment.
- CD Itinerant Students Virtual Family Meeting hosted by SPS Apples, 9/13, 12:15-1:15
- Lunch and Learn for Families(Introduction to Columbia's, Nurture Science Program for families), 9/22 at 12pm

Meetings/Trainings

- Head Teachers Meeting, 9/8, 2-3:30pm
- School Readiness Council Meeting , 9/9, 12pm
- OEC Commissioner Beth Bye visit to CLC, 9/10, 10am
- School Readiness Director's Meeting, 9/10, 3pm
- CLC Education Committee Meeting, 9/14, 10-12pm
- CD Component Meeting, 9/16, 10am
- CLC FACE Committee Meeting, 9/17, 10-11am
- CLC hosts Governor Ned Lamont's Press Conference at PH, 9/23, 1:30pm
- SC2C 0-5 Early Childhood CAN Meeting, 9/23, 3-4:15
- SC2C Sparkler Cohort Fall 2021 Meeting, 9/28, 9:30-11am
- CLC Reopening Committee Meeting, 9/29, 11am

- Assistant Teacher's Meeting, 9/29, 2-3:30pm
- CLC Blended Pre K Committee Meeting, 9/30, 10-11:30am
- Weekly CLC Senior Staff Meeting, Mondays at 10:30am
- Weekly Child Development Education Team Meeting, Tuesdays at 2:30pm.

Volunteers/ Collaborations

- Organic Gardening at Palmers Hill with the guidance of Ms. Michelle from Bartlett Aboretum

Classroom Learning Experiences

September Focus:

Getting Acquainted, Celebrating Our Similarities and Differences, Organic Gardening

Getting Acquainted/Getting to Know You:

- Songs and Fingerplay that teach children the names of their teachers and classmates
- Read Alouds included, *Corduroy Goes to School* by Don Freeman, *This is the Way We Go to School* by Edith Baer, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn and *My Friend and I*, by Lisa Jahn-Clough.
- Introduction to the Mood Meter as children begin to learn to recognize and understand their feelings

Celebrating Our Similarities and Differences:

- Classrooms are celebrating our Similarities and Differences with the start of 'Spanish Heritage Month' at the forefront. Children made piñatas, flags, and cultural instruments as well as shared family recipes, cultural dress and traditions with their classmates.
- Read Alouds included, *Turning Pages My Life Story* by Sonia Sotomayor, *The Empanadas That Abuela Made*, by Diane Gonzales Bertrand.

Organic Gardening:

- Harvesting continues with celery, basil, mint, and parsley being picked with our kitchen using them in meal preparation for our children. Ongoing learning experiences consist of the children observing different types of caterpillars and the changes occurring due to the change of season
- Read Alouds included, *The Biggest Apple Ever*, by Steven Kroll, *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss, *Tops and Bottoms*, by Janet Stevens, *Growing Vegetable Soup*, by Lois Ehlert and *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle.

Home/School Connection Activity

Every month teachers send home an activity for families to do with their child. They are asked to share pictures on Google Classroom of the child and family engaging in the particular activity. The child also shares the at home activity/ photos with his/her classmates. As a September home/school activity one Child Development classroom sent home simple steps to make a mood meter to correspond with what the children were doing at school.

Addendum D

School Readiness Report

September 2021

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
 - b. Enrolled: 56 (just SR rooms)
 - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds-26; 4 year olds-30; 5 year olds-0
 - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
 - e. Average Daily Attendance: 80%
 - f. Number of children attending on site- 56
 - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- N/A
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 70% of slot Utilization –September

CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:
 - Open Positions- Rm. 2 Teacher Aide position

- Activities/Enrichment/Specials: Intempo providing outdoor music and movement activities for the month of October at Maple Ave.

- Monthly Meetings:

<p>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Social Emotional Curriculum AI's Pal's from Teaching Strategies • Google Classroom as method of increasing parent engagement. 	<p>Staff Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming staff Professional Development Oct. 8 • Ed Manager/coordinator reflective supervision session 	<p><u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling in the blanks dry goods food distribution began in September
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- Next Month
 - a. Policy Council October, (1st session for 2021-2022 school year)
 - b. School Readiness Council October