

School Readiness Meeting Notes
Branford Community House
46 Church Street
8-14-2024

Council Members Present are in Bold: Dale Izzo, Robin Comey, Dr. Chris Tranberg, James Cosgrove, Rachael Kalman, Ariana Loyola, Diane Pappacoda, Crystal Pelletier, **Carole Weisberg**, Charles Cicarella, Deidre Popkin, Erin Hearn, **Lauren Skultery**, Melissa Hey, Kaliula Spears-Burgess, **Laura Gunneson**
Guests in attendance: Mary Diamond

The Meeting was called to order by Dale Izzo at 1:05 PM

1. Motion for Approval of Meeting Minutes 6/5/2024. 1st Robin Comey 2nd Dr. Chris Tranberg . Motion carries.
2. SR Liaison Report
 - a. Legislative update: Carole gave a brief update about the grant and OEC updates.
 - b. The 2025 SR Council Membership list was reviewed, and corrections noted. Laura Gunneson was welcomed to the council as the new children's librarian at the Blackstone Library.
3. Program Site Report:
 - a. FRC: Lauren reported that they have full enrollment. They have 5 kids moving on to Kindergarten at the end of August and expect five new kids on track to enroll.
 - b. Ariana Loyola was not able to attend the meeting. All their slots are full. BELC is receiving additional funding for a cost of living grant for state-funded private providers funded through OEC.
4. School/Community Reports: Family Day will be taking place on the town green at the end of September by the Branford Counseling Center and the Branford Parks & Recreation Dept.

Dr. Tranberg reported that The Board of Ed is using a new communication method through Parent Square. Also, Zum is now the new transportation company for busing students to and from school. They came on board July 1st. They have fully electric vehicles and provide an App for parents that allows them to track bus routes and the bus their child is on. In addition, the district is pursuing ways to minimize or prohibit student cell phone use while in school. The district has a new website host. Carole asked about dedicated space for School Readiness on the website. Lauren will be managing the early childhood webpages and a landing page for SR can be included.

Laura is looking to create school readiness kits at the library to include parenting books, toys, and materials to promote self-care and social-emotional skills in children.

5. Old Business: A discussion was heard about the Community Children's Booklet. It has been updated but needs some further edits. A big thank you to Danielle Ardizzone who worked on the updates thus far. It will be ready for printing and posting soon.

6. New Business:

- a. The Early Childhood Fair was discussed. It was felt that the preschool fair portion should be separate from the Week of the Young Child event to allow parents to learn about programs in Branford earlier in the year. It was decided that a date will be set for February.
 - b. The Week of the Young Child planning was discussed, and a small committee will be working on the activities for this event.
 - c. Mary Diamond spoke about her role as an early childhood consultant who is funded by OEC and DCF. She works with children birth to 5 yrs. focusing on behavioral concerns at home and school. She does assessments, staff trainings and community trainings and parent workshops.
- d. Public Comment: None
- e. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn. 1st Robin Comey 2nd Dr. Chris Tranberg
Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.