

Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Council
Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/xmquj8sZJ1-kpVek_j5nVVCAPf1it8cdIwa4W2kHZAwH6R5RCYPz7KAaYd2EfDh.PpGITHDIF9n9RoKG
Access Passcode: sS3?@t.a

Attendance: Members: Joy Becker, Scott Sears, Mary Geragotelis, Ann Knowles, Sam Roberson, Andrea Kaye, Tristyn Warren, Frank Olah, Ann Gruenberg, Terry Surprenant, Citizen: Wendy Sears, *Scotland Selectman*

- 1) **Call to order:** Joy called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- 2) **Audience for citizens:** None
- 3) **Adjustments to agenda** – Possibility of consolidation and potential effects on preschool.
- 4) **Approval of February 22, 2022 meeting minutes:** Scott motioned to approve the minutes. Mary seconded the motion. No discussion. Frank and Geri abstained. Motion passed.
- 5) **Acceptance of financial reports**
 - a. **Hampton:** Geri moved to accept Hampton’s financial report. Scott seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Scotland:** Scott moved to accept Scotland’s financial report. Geri seconded the motion. Joy mentioned that the report had no name on the top. Mary asked about the time period. Ann will have program name and dates added to the top of the reports in the future. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) **Program updates:**

Hampton and Scotland classroom updates were shared via email before the meeting for members to review. Frank commented that the reports are different in content. There was some discussion about making the reports more consistent. Some members prefer to read a narrative. Terry will draft a template for the council to consider for next year. She recommended including the SR quality components and cycling through them next year as well.

Ann K. described that in Scotland, preschoolers have been included in several school wide events including author visits and a bird rescue program that have occurred this month. Preschoolers have begun eating meals in the cafeteria with other students.
- 7) **SR Liaison report**
 - a) The SR grants were submitted by both programs on time and have been shared with outside readers for review. Those individuals sign an ethics statement and will keep information confidential. They will have some time to score using a rubric. Terry will meet with them next week to receive feedback. If they don’t come to consensus for an item, their scores will be averaged. Final scores and feedback will be shared back

with the programs by April 11. They will have an opportunity to adjust if necessary. Terry will be working on the community sections and will need final program grants back by April 18th. Vote by the Council at April meeting. Terry may need help to get signatures. Sam explained that the Council has only received the scores in the past. Terry will upload the documents and scores into a Google drive and will share with the council. Council members can decide what information would be most useful to review in order to approve for submission.

b) Consolidation

Frank asked about the NAEYC Accreditation process if consolidation were to happen. Terry will look into this. Ann G. commented that it's really important for representation to be a part of the conversation in terms of options.

c) Monitoring

i) Terry completed visits in February. She followed up with Chrissy this month upon her return. Reports were shared with Ann and Sam. Everything is going well.

ii) Terry has met with each principal to provide technical assistance on the grant applications.

d) Supplemental funding was awarded to each program to allow for extra support from the liaison in managing the programs during the pandemic. Terry has been providing additional hours to each program to assist new employees to become familiar with reporting and policies. Terry has a few additional days that she will be available to programs this spring and has offered to review handbooks and assist with PD plans for next year.

8) New Business

a) FY 22 Quality Enhancement funds need to be expended by the end of June.

i) Scotland will be spending their remaining funds on PD.

ii) Hampton has spent this money on PD, substitute coverage, and books on diversity.

b) Application for FY 23 QE funds are due to Terry by April 1st. Terry suggested that programs might consider coordinating efforts for professional development to allow staff from both schools to learn together if it makes sense. Sam said that they have done so in the past, but the needs of the schools aren't necessarily aligned. Sam and Ann could look into whether collaboration would meet their needs. There are some SR training requirements for specific topics. All classroom staff need 15 hours per year including SPED (2 hours) annually as well as topics of diversity and literacy for any new hires.

c) There are also PD requirements for early childhood administrators. Sam described that the ELDS and DOTS training that she participated in last year was useful.

9) Old Business – Policy Revisions

a) A committee worked on updating some of the SR policies. The policy document with revisions highlighted was supplied to the council for review.

b) Frank asked about 9e – is there another program that has created a fee/hardship policy that is clear and makes for a smooth process? Terry will ask other liaisons if they can share sample policies for the committee to consider. Joy commented that it seems like Scotland's process works pretty well. Families are aware that children won't be able to

continue if the parents don't pay. However, it's difficult to follow through on removal when that will hurt the program financially if there isn't a waiting list. The programs should only count on funding based on actual enrollment next year as the supplemental funding won't likely continue.

- c) Geri raised the issue of charging fees to any family with children with IEPs. She doesn't feel that it's right to charge as those children are eligible for a free and appropriate education. Ann G. supported Geri's point. Terry provided a distinction between School Readiness which is a program and Special Education which is a service. Families are not to be charged additionally for those services. There was a discussion about the various scenarios that should be considered in developing a policy.
- d) Scott made a motion to establish another committee to finalize sections H.9 and address the concerns about the special ed section. Joy seconded. All voted in favor. Scott, Ann K, Sam, Geri, and Terry volunteered to work on this task.

10) Audience for citizens – Wendy Sears explained that the committee exploring consolidation of Hampton and Scotland schools is looking into creating a new cooperative district with each town retaining its board of education. She offered to answer the council's questions about this proposal. There was a discussion about accreditation and funding – how would the SR program be affected if consolidation were to happen? Terry offered to bring their questions regarding funding to the OEC, and will ask the NAEYC specialists about accreditation. Scott pointed out that a new program would have 3 years to become accredited. Ann G. reminded that this is a hypothetical and that hopefully the process will include input from the communities. Wendy conveyed a commitment to community approval and said that if both towns end up agreeing to the move, the plan could change. However, at this point the planning is based on best estimates of what it might look like using current information about town budgets, etc. Discussion included several of the many factors that would likely affect whether and when this will come to pass.

11) Next Agenda Development: April agenda will reflect the standing items as well as:

- a) Review and approval of changes to Policies
- b) **Vote** to approve SR and QE grant applications

12) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Scott at 7:56 PM and seconded by Geri. Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING will be held on April 26, 2022.

Held through Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Surprenant, Hampton and Scotland School Readiness Liaison
These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next School Readiness Council Meeting