

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on March 14, 2016. Meeting Called to Order at 12:05p.m. by Tim Waldron, Mayor's Designee.

Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

The February 8, 2016 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Paula Gajewski/Community Family Learning Center, Kristen Fern/Forbes Kindergarten, Cindy Marchell/Forbes Grade 3, Judy Courtot/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Dawn Markelon/Torrington Grade 2, Sara Osborne/McCall Center, Tim Waldron/Mayor's Designee, Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Patrice Nelson/CT Center for School Change, Jan Sosnicki/Hilltop Early Learning Center, Debbie Collins/Future Foundations, Elizabeth Rhoades/McCall Center

Items Discussed:

School Readiness (SR) Update-

- CT Office of Early Childhood held a community event at Torrington City Hall in February 2016 to present their new strategic plan that was well attended.
- Local SR Request for Proposals due April 25th & Community Request for Proposal due to the state May 20th.
- Members were invited to be SR Local Grant Application Reviewers

Events-

- The Kindergarten Readiness Fair was held on March 5th. 120 families participated and approximately 30 new incoming Kindergartners were identified and given registration info.
- Kindergarten registration dates are March 14-18 & March 21-24.
- Ideas for improvements to the event for next year include having individual schools sponsor an activity area.

Birth to 8 Community Plan Implementation-

- Summer Learning Loss Activities Follow Up-Paula Gajewski, Community Learning Coordinator, presented a new plan for a community summer passport program modeled after successful program in New Britain to decrease summer learning loss for students in the elementary grades. Passports will be distributed to students with report cards and will be given to incoming Kindergarten students at their screenings. This committee is tasked with getting the word out about this new program and recruiting community partners to include in the passport.
- Strategy III: To assure aligned high quality professional development for anyone working with children is the Education Work Group's focus for this fiscal year. Survey results regarding professional development needs were available to review today. 56 respondents to date. Additional responses to the survey would be helpful. What wasn't covered in the survey is what current community offerings are for professional development. Other questions not answered include are there other sources of this needed professional development, and is there a contact person in TPS that can link professional development to community members?

Meeting adjourned at 2:05p.m.

Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for April 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.