

ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARLY LEARNING CENTER

School Readiness Council Meeting

Minutes from the October 18, 2022 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Taylor Parker/Principal & Preschool Administrator; Leslie Barone/Preschool Teacher, Diane Kane/Administrative Assistant; Holly Maiorano/Director of Special Education; Marilyn Piecuch/SR Liaison

Members in Virtual Attendance: Laura Beeler/AHM FRC Associate, Sarah Becker/Parent, Chelsea McOmber/Parent, Brandy Sklodosky/Daycare Owner

[School Readiness members gave reminder introductions at the start of the meeting for anyone absent from last month's meeting.]

Enrollment/Tuition Report:

All School Readiness and Smart Start slots remain filled, 16 students and 13 students respectively. There are eight outstanding tuition payments due. Total tuition amount received to date is \$13, 672.40.

Financial Report: No report available but no significant changes from last month.

- Tuition Line = \$94,000 expected for the year (approximation).
- School Readiness Grant = \$108,000 plus \$4,800 for SR liaison.
- Competitive QE Funds = \$3,881.
- Smart Start = \$65,000 grant (\$64,000 for salaries, \$1,000 for supplies).

OEC Updates:

Legislation passed about additional funds for daycares to increase infant and toddler slots. Not applicable to our program since enrollment is only offered to three and four year olds.

Strategic Plan:

We are required to provide an annual evaluation assessing the effectiveness of our program. As part of the program's strategic plan, we are looking at our mission statement:

- A. Foster partnerships with parents and the community
 - a. Review parent and staff surveys
 - b. Review quality components that foster partnerships
 - i. Continue collaboration with community programs, i.e., Library services/activities, daycare(s), AHM, EastConn, Town (Taylor has been working hard with the Library and recently sent home an activity sheet)
 - ii. Encourage family involvement through:
 1. School Readiness Council (thank you parents currently on the Council)
 2. Home school screening (Ages and Stages)
 3. Home school information gathering (DOTS assessment)
 4. Nutrition surveys (determining how these will be used)

- B. Provide environments that encourage creative problem solvers and critical thinkers
 - a. Continue to offer staff development opportunities (staff development plan)
 - b. Begin NAEYC process for reaccreditation; AQIS support (starting this year to prepare; will go through all ten standards; we will complete a self-study then have a program visit)
 - c. Set Early Childhood preschool team meetings (Administrator)
 - d. Hold monthly Early Childhood Preschool Team meetings
- C. Engage students in meaningful activities through appropriate curricula and assessments
 - a. Continue to have preschool staff involved in professional development work
 - i. Work on the ELDs curriculum – EastConn
 - ii. Training for DOTs assessments – EastConn
- D. Ongoing monitoring (OEC asks liaisons to complete this monitoring; Marilyn will submit the report to the SRC)

Other:

- **Birth to Three:** Holly noted that we have a responsibility to monitor the Birth to Three process through which many preschoolers come. Children can be referred by parents, pediatricians, daycare providers. This year is seeing some very active children, more than usual, with more significant needs. We have two great teachers and paraprofessionals and subs that help keep the program running. We will be putting a Child Find notice in the Rivereast soon. Parents with any concerns that are not being addressed can be referred to the Birth to Three program or the school program.
- **AHM Programs:** Last month, AHM hosted a parenting workshop based on the book, *E.N.R.I.C.H. Your Relationship with Your Child* by Debbie Kruegel-Farr Ph.D. The program was held via ZOOM for three sessions. A lot of helpful, practical information and solutions were presented. It was done for the KinderRHAMa group and AHM questioned if AES has any interest and if there was funding available. The cost for the author was \$375 and included 10 free books for the first sign ups. If no funding was available, parents would have had to pay \$35. One parent signed up until the program was offered for free (with funding); then several parents signed up. The program can be offered in the evenings for one hour. AHM purchased books via Amazon; can email AES the price. The program can be held jointly with Hebron. Fundraising would be an option as long as it doesn't compete with the PTA; we could work together with the PTA and add another enrichment opportunity for families potentially.
- **Kindergarten Accreditation:** Kindergarten will be included in the accreditation process this year. The AHM program can be offered to both Pre-K and Kindergarten, which would help the Pre-K/K connection that is part of NAEYC accreditation requirements
- **Fundraising:** It was mentioned that the candle/cookie dough fundraisers draw some fatigue but the spaghetti dinner and breakfast fundraiser worked well. When food is involved, it helps to create a great family experience. Other fundraising suggestions were a potluck or a soup night (stone soup? pumpkin soup? etc.).
- **PPE:** Brandy Sklodosky, Daycare Provider, notified the SRC of an offer from the OEC for lots of personal protective equipment (PPE), i.e., gloves, masks, etc. Marilyn noted that because we are a school, we don't always qualify for those incentives, but it would be worth looking into.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m.