

Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021
12:00pm
Meeting Via Zoom

SRC Members Present:

Dena Booker	SPS Family Resource Facilitator/ McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford,
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABI
Elizabeth McKay	Youth Services Librarian, Ferguson Library

Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Linda Barge	Education Manager, CLC Child Day Care Programs
Mary Basso	Director of Child Day Care, CLC
Kathy Belmont	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Cody	Assistant Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant
Phyllis DiFrancia	Assistant Director, CLC William Pitt
Jane Faherty	Director, JCC Jumpstart
Liz Gebert	Director, JCC Kinderplace
Beth Genovese	Education Coordinator, CLC
Penny Lehman	Director, CLC Program Services
Alex Morris	Education Coordinator, CLC
Kate Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Tiffani Olenik	Early Childhood Consultant, ECCP
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Marie Roc	Disability and Mental Health Manager, CLC
Dr. Debby Schreiner	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Tara Stickney	Parent Participant, SRC Meeting Administrator
Inge-Lise Titherage	Early Childhood Consultant, ECCP
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Dori Walker	SPS Instructional Coordinator
Anna Witkowski	Director of School Readiness, CLC

I. Welcome

Terri Drew welcomed all and attendance was taken virtually.

II. Approval of Minutes

The SRC was unable to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes due to lack of a quorum.

III. January School Readiness Provider Reports

- SR provider reports were previously sent electronically to members and attendees for review.
- December School Readiness Provider reports are attached here as Addendum A, B, C, and D for BOE at Rippowam, CLC William Pitt, CLC Palmers Hill, CLC Westover, CLC Lathon Wider, CLC Franklin Commons and CLC Maple respectively.

IV. School Readiness Liaison Report – Donna Arcuri

- Both SPS and CLC have turned to remote learning as of December 21 due to rising positive COVID test results and hospitalizations in Stamford. Both are expected to return to on-site Learning as of January 11th and 19th respectively.

- December SR utilization - Full Day 233 / 406 available, Part Day/ Distance Learning 42 / 66, Extended Day 44 / 60, School day 12 /16. CLC earned \$338,393 / 345,486 Deficit of 7,093 in OEC funding. This deficit does not include parent fees and subsidy deficits. The BOE at Rippowam classroom received full funding.
- All programs both funded and unfunded are financially struggling with reduced parent fees and subsidies due to low enrollment.
- The OEC will provide SR and CDC funded classrooms full funding for December and January no matter utilization. In order to receive full funding, classrooms are expected to provide remote learning options for families in accordance with OEC guidelines in posted Memo 35 and OEC guidance. Attendance and participation are being collected and retained for the SRC and OEC.
- To assist CLC with cash flow, Stamford's office of Administration agreed to provide CLC with full OEC payments for both the second quarter and third quarter and will reconcile in the fourth quarter.
- Second quarter monitoring for all funded classrooms will begin during the 3rd week of January. At this time I will review Quality Component compliance for all sites in addition to typical classroom and teacher compliance. All classrooms will be virtually monitored including distant learning classrooms.
- Malena Louks of SPEF coordinated 211 digital fingerprinting events offered by 211 on Dec. 19 and Dec. 22. 22 of the 25 confirmed staff member appointments were completed. 30 additional daycare staff members are expected to complete digital fingerprinting in Stamford on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4. We hope to host 211 monthly after February at the Adult Education building until the end of the fiscal year.
- Virtual Kindergarten Information Night was held on January 13th and hosted about 180 families. Kendra Brown and Lisa Cody informed and guided families in the kindergarten transition process. Dena Booker provided information from the Office of Family Engagement on enrollment and school bus information.
- The Summer Start program inquiry form is available for children entering kindergarten in September 2021.

V. Distance Learning Overview – Lisa Cody, SPS and Anna Witkowski, CLC,

- The School Readiness Classroom at Rippowam has prepared for distance learning in a few different ways.
- Lisa reported they held trainings on Google Meet and Google for families and staff. Since that is the platform for online instruction.
- Brooke Pelli is the QSM for the SR classroom and also the technology specialist for the building. Brooke was able to support families with any difficulty.
- Stamford's BOE made sure that every student that had a need or desire was provided with a device to participate in distant learning.
- Internet hotspots were provided for families with unlimited internet access so that internet speed did not slow down family use.

- Brooke hosts a daily class for children that is screen-time appropriate for preschool children.
- A mix of lessons that include recorded read aloud and also in person online twice per day for a live lesson.
- Every week a packet is prepared that include materials that are needed to complete a project, participate in a learning game etc.
- At home parent child projects are provided to families.
- Attendance is kept and family engagement telephone calls are made to families. If families have difficulty, a visit is made to the home to provide support.
- Anna Witkowski presented a PowerPoint on CLC's distance learning program.
- CLC's approach fosters play based learning while keeping screen time to a minimum.
- Engaging families as active participants
- Like SPS, CLC also uses the Google platform and trains staff appropriately.
- Buildings have increased the security of their technology and internet bandwidth.
- CLC is assisting families with obtaining tablets.
- They offer 4 core distance learning teachers and classrooms. A set time is scheduled for each class.
- Teachers are following the CTEDLS of guided intentional teaching.
- Anna shared the Google classroom page. It details classroom events, Google meet, parent surveys, virtual field trips, offers for one-on-one meetings and projects.
- A sample "Learning Experience Plan" designed for virtual learning was shared. Anna explained how this is aligned to the CTEDLS.
- Home based activities are provided for families to follow without a virtual teacher.
- Teachers are able to track attendance and data.
- The virtual learning platform has increased parent engagement with teachers.
- Both programs reported that they are following the guideline on OEC memo 34 in their distant learning plans.

VI. SRBI in Preschool – Kendra Brown, SPS and Lisa Cody, SPS

- SRBI program was piloted together with CLC.
- The SPS Early Childhood Department is now able to offer this program to community providers.
- Kendra thanked the staff at CLC for their partnership in ensuring the SPED children enrolled at CLC are receiving services.

VII. Announcements

- Liz McKay from the Ferguson Library announced the 10th Anniversary of Take your Child to the Library Day but this year it will be called "Take the Library to your Child Day". Live interactive Story Time on Saturday Feb. 6th.
- Liz also reminded attendees to share the Library's survey previously shared, with families.

VIII. Adjourn

Addendum A



Stamford BOE @ Rippowam
School Readiness Council Report
December 2020

- **Program Utilization**
 - a. Authorized Capacity: 16 School Day, School Year slots
 - b. Spaces currently occupied 12
 - c. Ages: 4 year-olds
 - d. Students with disabilities: 1
- **Program Attendance:**
 - Attendance has been consistence for the most part. A few children have absent due to colds.
- **Staffing:**
 - Staffing is in place.
- **Training:**
 - a. Teacher is working toward her 097 certification in remedial reading.

Classroom Activities for December:

Dramatic Play/ Blocks- bakery materials in block bin, story props for *The Gingerbread Man*, brown paper and tape to build a gingerbread house

Math- holiday pattern block templates, gingerbread counting playdoh mats, gingerbread pattern templates, candy cane pattern, exploration bins with math manipulatives

Art- cookies for block bin, Salt Dough ornaments, gingerbread man collage, cookie cutter art, menorahs

Fine Motor- Gingerbread playdoh, beads and pipe cleaners, cutting/ripping paper

Sensory Bin- sand, measuring spoons, baking tools

Read Alouds- Gingerbread Book Unit Study(Gingerbread Man, Girl, Baby, Ninjabread Man)

Writing- names, letters with curved lines in sand, pipe cleaners

Writing Prompt- If I was a Gingerbread Man, I would _____.
My favorite Gingerbread book is _____.

Music/ Movement: Gingerbread Dance, Gingerbread Movement (run as fast as you can, jump as fast as you can, march as fast as you can etc.)

Gross Motor- Gingerbread Man hunt

Science-baking cookies, measuring ingredients,making playdoh

Phonological Awareness: Clapping syllables and sorting with holiday words and bakery words, nonsense rhyming with holiday words, Holiday Letter Sound Bags, Heggerty

Family Project-Culture Week (each child gets a week)

Classroom Activities for January:

Theme: Winter, Snow, Hibernation

Focus questions: What do you notice about winter? Why do animals hibernate? What happens when it snows?

Home school connection: Decorate a snowman with their families, Culture Week presentations, Hibernation Day

Block center- adding characters from the mitten on the blocks and a big mitten for retell/ hibernation cave in block center, cotton balls for snow

Story focus: The Mitten, Bear Snores On, Snowmen at Night, Over and Under, Snowballs

Literacy: Heggerty phonemic awareness curriculum, writing names, writing letters with curved lines, onset rime and syllable games/ sorting by initial sound

Math: Bear counting game (roll dice and put that many bears in the cave), measuring a bear with cubes and bears, matching snowmen shapes

Art: Snowy painting scene, snowflakes, mitten collage, self-portraits, Sleepy Bear craft, free paint with "icy paint" salt in paint, snowman painting

Writing: I feel like a sleepy bear when_____.

My new year goal is_____.

Who is your favorite character from The Mitten?

Name Writing

Science: ice experiment/ nature walk to observe changes in winter

Fine Motor: tweezer marshmallows in a snowman water bottle/ finger gym (beads, marbles, golf tees, playdoh cutting)

Gross Motor: Winter yoga, nature walk

Addendum B

School Readiness Report
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County
December 2020

CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 8-5pm (M-F)
5 sessions offered: 8-3:30pm, 8:30-4pm, 9-4:30pm, 8-5pm, 9:30-5pm
Total number classrooms open SR: 17 (William Pitt-13, Lockwood-4)
William Pitt has 5 classrooms closed.

Total children enrolled SR: 201*

Lockwood classrooms total: 49 children*

William Pitt classrooms total: 152 children*

* potential for update

Staggered times for drop off and pick up has allowed for social distancing of families. 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.

- **Staffing:**

Staff patterns have been adjusted to meet the needs of each cohort with limited intermingling or sharing of staff. Each cluster is a cohort and averages 25 children. Staff shifts have remained the same in total hours worked, but times have been adjusted to accommodate the changes in drop off and pick up of children.

- **Curriculum Focus:**

- a. Teachers are preparing **Learning Experience Plans** based on the CTEDS 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. New language and routines for children include; mask, social distancing, change in classroom environment, individual art supplies, smaller class size, sanitizer use, etc.
- c. **Family Support:** Due to new 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
 2. Weekly phone calls from teachers
 3. Emails
 4. Monthly phone calls from Educ Coordinators
- d. **Distance Learning:** Allows teachers to reach children at home who are not in the classroom and gives teachers a chance to make a connection with families. 44 children are enrolled in Distance Learning. The 44 children are divided into 4 classes. The enrollment consists of many families that would have been our part day children. These families have decided not to send their children into the building for various reasons. Lockwood is not participating in DL at this time.

Distance learning is offered 5 days/week and includes:

1. Weekly phone calls/emails
2. Zoom class or Google class (20-30 minutes)
3. Distance Learning Grid- emailed home (monthly)
4. Video Conferences

- **Monthly Meetings:** All virtual

- a. Education Coordinators
- b. Instructional Coordinators
- c. Head Teacher

- d. Cluster/classroom meeting
 - e. Component
 - f. SRBI
- **Professional Development:**
 - a. CPR/First Aid- Red Cross- 12/9
 - b. Emily Mason-"Color, Shape and Emotion"- Bruce Museum-12/9-virtual
 - c. STEAM-Stepping Stones-12/9-virtual
 - d. "Good Riddance to 2020"-Rachel Wolf-discussion-12/21-virtual
 - e. "Early Childhood Environments during Covid19" CT Dept of Educ- 12/14
 - **Family Engagement:** Virtual
 - a. Scholastic Book Fair
 - b. Project Family Outreach
 - c. Distance Learning for all enrolled children

Next Month:

- a. Bookmobile- limited access
 - b. Professional Development
 - c. Distance Learning
- Parent Advisory Council

Addendum C

CLC

Palmers, Westover, LW, Franklin

SRC Report

December 2020

Program Enrollment-

- Infant Room- Full
- Toddler Room- Full
- State Funded Preschool Serving 118 children total
- All classrooms are open at all CD sites

Staffing

- Full time Head Teacher (PH Room 5)
- Full time Teacher Aide position open (Floater)

Meetings/Trainings

- CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)
- Alliance Meetings (Monday-Wednesday-Friday)
- Child Development Education Team Meeting (Weekly)
- CD Component meeting, Health, Nutrition, Family Service, and Education departments convene to share relevant information to inform practice and planning, December 3rd, 10am
- Head Teacher Meeting, December 3rd, 2:00-3:30pm
- CLC Distance Learning Committee meeting, December 4th, 10am
- Google For Education (GFE) training; Google Classroom, Docs, Sheets and Slides, December 7th, 3pm
- School Readiness Council meeting, December 10th, 12:00-1:00pm
- CLC FACE Committee meeting, Family Surveys discussed, December 11th, 11am
- CD Education Team meeting (Quality Components), December 15th, 2pm
- Child Development Program Professional Development (Distance Learning, Teaching staff sharing latest on what they learned from the various webinars they've attended), December 16th, 12:30-3:30pm

Family Engagement

- Google Classrooms for all Child Development Program classes have been set up
- GMeet with teachers/families
- Emails to families - Classroom Newsletter, Family Training Opportunities
- Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families
- Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program
- Parent Advisory Council meeting, planned for December 17th was cancelled due to snow
- Virtual CLC Open House, December 1st
- Distance Learning through GFE on December 21st, 22nd and 23rd

Volunteers/Collaborations

The children of CLC were fortunate enough to receive gifts this holiday season due to the extreme generosity of our following CLC partners:

- St Leo's Church –Walmart Gift Cards
- King School- The King students made 'Learning Bags' filled with materials needed to complete an activity they chose from CLC's 'Play To Learn' book
- Toys for Tots
- Inspirica
- Kids In Crisis
- Edgehill Senior Living
- Rotary Club
- Turtle Fur

December Classroom Events

- This month's Author Study focused on Tomie dePaola. Many stories were read, and favorite stories, such as “Strega Nona” and “Big Anthony, his Story”, were extended and developed throughout the curriculum.
- Throughout the month in many of our classrooms libraries, fire stations, post offices, and construction sites were created by the children as they learned and discovered the many jobs of Community Helpers and what they mean to our community.
- Fairy Tales abound as one classroom read a number of fairy tales such as, “The Three Little Pigs”, “The Gingerbread Man”, and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff.” A number of versions of the same story were read and the children discussed how the stories were similar and different. The children made a stage, puppets and acted out their own version of their favorite tale. Some children even created their own fairy tale. Families participated with their child outside of school, as the children made props at school to be used at home to retell their families the stories.
- Second Assessment Period begins

Addendum D

School Readiness Report

Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.

Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

December 2020

- Program Utilization
 - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
 - b. Enrolled: 58 (just SR rooms)
 - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds- 27; 4 year olds-30; 5 year olds-0
 - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
 - e. Average Daily Attendance: 88%
 - f. Number of children attending on site- 55
 - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- 3
- Program Attendance:
 - a. 73% of slot Utilization – December

CLC Maple Avenue

- Staffing:

Open Positions- Room 10 Teacher Aide, Room 10 Assistant Teacher,

- Activities/Enrichment/Specials:

Teachers prepared lesson plans based on the CTEDLS and focused on the following units of study: Farms, Markets & Food

- Monthly Meetings:

<p>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Usage of Intentional Teaching Experiences from Creative Curriculum through TSG online. ● 	<p>Staff Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virtual CLASS observations through a consultant. Feedback provided to classrooms virtually through zoom. 	<p><u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shift to Virtual/Remote services 12/21-23 & 1/4/8.
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- Next Month

- Policy Council
- SHINE Data Review for February meeting
- SR Council Meeting