

**Stamford School Readiness Council**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**  
**12:00pm**

***SRC Members Present:***

Nina Clark	Director, CP Kids Preschool
Emendya Diaz	Director of Workforce Development, Building One Community
Terri Drew – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services City of Stamford
Karen Feder – Co Chair	Director of Youth Services, ABILIS
Janeene Freeman	Mayor’s Designee
Garth Gordon	Parent Participant
Emmanuella Lauture	Owner Operator, Ma Maison
Liz McKay	Children’s Librarian, Ferguson Library
Lauren Secko-Pagan	Director, Education Station at the Italian Center

***Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:***

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, City of Stamford
Linda Barge	CDC Assistant Director, CLC
Mary Basso	CDC Director, CLC
Antonia Better-Wirz	Education Manager, AOK
Kendra Brown	Director of Early Childhood, SPS
Lisa Cody	Assistant Direct of Early Childhood, SPS
Tamika Cope	Parent Participant, Parent Liaison C2C
Phyllis DiFrancia	School Readiness Director, CLC
Beth Genovese	SR Education Manager, CLC
Garth Gordon	Parent Participant
Marsha Guthrie	Director, CLC Maple Ave. and CLC Early Head Start
Yazmin Iglesias	Director - Stamford, Norwalk & Danbury, All Our Kin
Alison Kallman	Community Education and Services Coordinator, Kids in Crisis
Penny Lehman	Director Program Services, CLC
Alex Morris	Education Coordinator, CLC
Kate Lynd Murphy	Assistant Director, Child First
Brooke Nilsen	Director, First United Methodist Preschool
Enrique Pabon	Education Manager, CLC Maple and CLC Early Head Start
Yazmin Polonia	Education Coordinator, CLC
Tashi Shuler-Drakes	Community Engagement Manager, Cradle to Career
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Ashley Vasquez	Parent Participant
Danielle Walker	Community Coordinator, Cradle to Career
Anna Witkowski	Chief Education Officer, CLC

**I. Welcome/Quorum**

Karen Feder welcomed all. A quorum was present and the meeting called to order at 12:07 pm. School Readiness Council minutes for the February 2022 approved unanimously.

**II. School Readiness Provider Reports February, 2022 – School Readiness Program Directors**

Provider reports attached here as Addendums A, B, C and D and were sent to members and attendees prior to the meeting. Attendees asked no questions.

### **III. School Readiness Liaison Update – Donna Arcuri**

- February Utilization (CLC) FD-355/425, ED 57/60—PD 28/28. CLC received full reimbursement with the 25% supplement (BOE) SD 16/16— Full reimbursement. Still underutilized. Underutilization is a statewide problem seen mostly in programs that serve economically disadvantaged families.
- CLC reported one classroom not open due to lack of staff and 6 classroom are capped at a capacity of 10. Two directors
- Liaison 3rd Quarter Monitoring has begun.
- OEC / 211 Fingerprinting events are ongoing in the 6th Floor Training room at the Government Center.
- The FY23 School Readiness Local RFP was shared with current School Readiness providers and community centers. Applications are due Friday, April 1 on or before 3pm in the exact manner requested. Regardless of the postmark. Applications will be time stamped.
- Local School Readiness and Quality Enhancement requests for proposals were announced on the Early Childhood ListServ, The Stamford Advocate and announcements emailed to all licensed Stamford centers.
- Reviewers will meet during the April 11 to discuss application scores.
- It was proposed that the April SRC meeting be rescheduled on Thursday, April 21 to accommodate the OEC School Readiness application due date. The SRC unanimously approved this date change.
- SRC RFP requirements were shared SRC Voting members. They were sent to review and attest. These attestations are due to me on or before March 25.

### **IV. Early Childhood Center Update – Kendra Brown, SPS**

- Kendra provided an update on the proposed early childhood center,
- Stamford was granted the School based construction grant for the proposed early childhood center. Funds 20% of the cost. The City of Stamford must find funds for the remaining 80% required.
- Meetings are scheduled to discuss raising the remaining 80% of funds. All are encouraged to attend these open meetings.
- SPS Early Childhood department is looking to partner with both funded and unfunded preschools to host classrooms in this collaborative preschool model whether or not, the new building is completed.
- These classrooms will be based on a 50/50 model. Meaning 50% of the students enrolled will be students that are typically developing and 50% of the students will be children that have an IEP.
- Ideally, every licensed preschool will collaborate in this venture in order to give families as many options as possible.
- It was requested that attendees and the community provide feedback on the possibility of this preschool model. Kendra asked that all contact her with questions and suggestions.
- Student insight Day – This date is when kindergarten teachers are provided preschool information. This year, SPS would like to include any interested preschool teacher to join this conversation.
- In service dates were requested to be able to be inclusive of both preschool teachers and kindergarten teachers. Providers were asked to participate in a google survey that was added to the chat and also emailed to providers.

### **V. March 15 Day of Action for Early Childhood Providers– Yazmin Iglesias, AOK**

- A rally will be held in Stamford on March 15 in response to the lack of added funding for early childhood in the state budget.
- 80% of all parents cannot pay for childcare.

- Subsidies do not cover the costs of running an early childcare program.
- Anna Witkowski of CLC is the point person organizing the rally.
- CLC and some family childcare providers will be opening later in the morning.
- Yazmin encourage families and providers to join the action.
- All providers were encouraged to learn more about how they can participate. They can sign a letter in solidarity and share with parents etc.
- The ultimate goals for funding the OEC are universal preschool and affordable childcare.
- Increasing provider pay.

**VI. Early Childhood Fair Update – Danielle Walker, Cradle to Career  
Cradle to Career Update – Tashi Shuler Drakes, Cradle to Career**

- Danielle state volunteers are needed the day of the fair and days prior to the fair.
- A volunteer google form was shared in the chat for potential volunteers.
- Early Childhood Fair is April 30 and rain date May 1.
- Penny Lehman announced community resource tables are needed and urged attendees to volunteer.
- Tashi discussed the parent advisory push for Cradle to Career and School Readiness.
- She is working on language to be shared with potential families.
- Cradle to Career is sharing information on developmental screenings and kindergarten registration.

**VII. Announcements**

- Liz McKay reminded the group that the Library will be hosting in person story times beginning in April
- On April 9, the Ferguson Library in collaboration will be sharing books across the city .

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.

## **Addendum A**



### **Stamford BOE @ Rippowam School Readiness Council Report**

**February 2022**

#### **Themes:**

- Healthy Habits, Friendship, Black History Month

#### **Dramatic Play:**

- Doctor's Office

#### **Math:**

- Sorting healthy foods, measuring food containers with cubes/ teddy bears, measuring height/weight in doctor's office, heart counting, sorting healthy vs. not healthy foods

#### **Art:**

- painting with toothbrushes, healthy food collages, heart stamping, tissue paper hearts, painting with celery and carrots, February self-portrait

#### **Writing:**

- Healthy food words, Valentine's Day letters, "I love \_\_\_\_\_", healthy grocery list

#### **Science:**

- tasting different healthy foods and graphing favorite, candy heart STEM activity

#### **Sensory table:**

- rice with Valentine's Day objects and letters on hearts, measuring cups

#### **Literacy:**

- dentist vocabulary syllable sort, rhyming doctor office words, black history month study- Jackie Robinson, Heggerty

#### **Library:**

- Books about healthy habits/ friendship/ Black History Month

#### **Social emotional:**

- Compliment circle, kindness chain

**Fine motor:**

- dental playdoh center, cutting/ snipping practice

**Homeschool Connection:**

- Culture Week

**Blocks:**

- build with healthy foods, healthy food boxes, build a grocery store

**March 2022**

**Theme:** Wheels

**Essential Questions:** Unit of Study Questions- How do things move? What do you notice about wheels? How are some of the wheels the same? How are they different from one another? How have you seen wheels being used? Who might use some of these wheels? How do wheels help people? What is your favorite kind of wheel? Why?

**Vocabulary words:** axle, rim, brakes, crank, revolve, roll, rotate, inflate, tire, radius, cylinder, spokes, deflate

**Blocks:** Garage-Explore a variety of vehicles with wheels. Build ramps using wooden blocks. Test the speed of vehicles.

**Dramatic play:** Repair shop- C will repair broken objects that have wheels with tools.

**Math:** counting wheels on objects, compare the shape of wheels on objects, measure wheels, and sort wheels by type

**Art:** marble painting, make “VEHICLES” with creative junk: toilet paper roll, bottle top, food boxes, painting with cars and making tire prints, learn about color wheel and use it to select colors for painting

**Writing:** Write and dictate drawings & investigations about wheels, visuals of wheels to refer to when writing

**Sensory Bin:** Little Blue Truck retell sensory bin (sand, story prop materials)

**Science:** Ramp experiment: which ramp helps the car go faster? (higher ramp/shorter ramp) How do we need to place the ramp for the cars to go? Etc.

**Literacy:** fiction and nonfiction books about wheels

**Homeschool Connection:** Family 3-D wheels project, Culture week study, Google Classroom, ClassDojo, Parent Teacher Conferences

**Social Studies:** Every Friday virtual field trip: garage, car wash, amusement park, car show

**Wheel Hunt:** go for a walk around the school to look for places where we see wheels

## **Addendum B**

School Readiness Report  
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County  
February 2022

### CLC William Pitt/ CLC Lockwood

- **Program Utilization:** Hours of Operation 7:30am-5:30pm (M-F)  
William Pitt has 1 classroom closed.

**Total** children enrolled SR: 334 children

**Lockwood** classrooms total: 58 children

**William Pitt** classrooms total: 276 children

Classrooms PARTIALLY CLOSED due to a positive case of Covid-19. ALL classrooms offer Distance Learning using Google classroom:

*\* Lockwood 15 & 17 on Feb 15,16,17.*

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. Family members are also required to wear a mask for drop off and pick up. Families do not enter our buildings.

- **Staffing:**

Open positions include: (1) Head Teacher, (2) Teacher (3) Assistant Teachers, (5) Teacher Aide Full time, (3) Teacher Aide Part time. All classrooms satisfy QSM requirements.

- **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.
- c. **Monitoring of Classrooms:** Environments -Educ Coordinators

d. **Family Support/Engagement:** Due to Covid 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- monthly
2. Emails - check in, including photos
3. Monthly Family Engagement Grid-emailed to families

- **Collaborations/Donations/Volunteers**

- a. Columbia: Nurture Science Intervention Program
- b. Vita Co-Educators 3.0 -Family Centers
- c. SPS
- d. Bruce Museum
- e. Child Guidance
- f. Stamford/Westhill Ice Hockey Team- "Teddies for Teddy"

- **Specials/Family Engagement:**

- a. Parent Advisory Council
- b. Lunch & Learn: Time Life 2/15
- c. Bookmobile
- d. Home/School Connections: Celebrating Black History Month, Post Office, Friendship and Kindness



- **Monthly Meetings:**

- Education Coordinators
- Instructional Coordinators
- Head Teacher
- Cluster/classroom meeting
- Component
- SRBI
- Apples/Itinerant services
- RULER Implementation Team

- **Professional Development:**

- CPR/First Aid- American Red Cross 2/16
- Positive Discipline 2/17
- NAEYC Criteria 2/3



- d. Team Building 2/23
- e. Literacy How 2/24- (Admin)
- f. Yale RULER 2/16-(Admin)

## **Addendum C**

### **CLC**

**Palmers Hill, Westover, Franklin Commons, Lathon Wider  
February 2022**

### **Program Enrollment**

**State Funded Preschool                      Serving 180**

### **Staff Opening**

**Child Development Program teacher positions openings:**

**Teacher Aide (CD Floater)**

**Teacher Aide (PH Room 8)**

**Assistant Teacher (Franklin Commons Room 1)**

**Assistant Teacher (Lathon Wider Room A)**

**Head Teacher (Lathon Wider Room C)**

### **Family Engagement**

**Google Classroom-** All Child Development Program classes use Google Classroom to communicate with their families. Teachers share pictures, classroom activities, classroom newsletters, and upcoming events. A Family Learning Plan is also shared with suggestions of activities to help extend classroom learning to the home environment.

**G Meets and phone check-ins with teachers/staff/families as necessary, particularly during room closure due to COVID**

**Emails to families that share, Health updates (vaccines), Family Training Opportunities, Community Events, CLC Newsletters, etc.**

**Sparkler Program App introduced to all new Infant/Toddler families**

**Columbia- Family Nurturing Intervention Program (FNI)**

**Co Educators Parent Program**

**Lunch and Learn for Families (NY Life- Financial Planning and CoEducator Program Overview), 2/15 at 12pm**

**Parent Advisory Council (Black History Month), 2/16, 5pm**

**Virtual Parent -Teacher Conferences for remaining families.**

#### **Virtual Meetings/Trainings**

**CLC Senior Staff Meetings (Mondays)**

**Alliance Meetings (Monday, Wednesday weekly)**

**Child Development Education Team Meeting (Mondays)**

**CLC Combined Component Meeting; SR and CD Health, Nutrition, Family Service and Education Department, 2/3**

**Literacy How Training for CLC education program administrators, 2/3 and 2/24**

**CD Head Teacher's Meeting, 2/9**

**SR Council Meeting, 2/10**

**CLC Reopening Committee Meeting, 2/10**

**CLC/Columbia FNI Program Meeting**

**RULER Child Development Program Implementation Team Meeting, 2/15**

**RULER Training for CLC Administrators, 2/16**

**Lunch and Learn ( NY Life Financial Planning and Co Educators Parent Program Overview), 2/15**

**SC2C Pre K Screenings and Assessments Workgroup (PKTS 2022 Review), 2/17**

**CLC/Co-Educators Program Meeting, 2/8 and 2/22**

**Child Development Program Component Meeting Health, Nutrition, Family Service and Education Department, 2/17**

**CLC Program Directors Meeting, 2/23**

**Standards, Assessments and Curriculum offered through the OEC, monthly, February through June, with first raining session on 2/.23**

#### **Volunteers/ Collaboration**

**In celebration of CLC's 120th anniversary our '120 Readers' program was launched this month. We look forward to having numerous community partners and CLC staff members read virtually to our children throughout the year**

**'Teddy Bears for Teddy' donated to our children by the Westhill and Stamford High School boy's Hockey Teams in memory of Teddy Balkind**

#### **Classroom Learning Experiences**

**This month's areas of focus are;**

**Writing Letters, Post Office, Mail Delivery**

**Kindness**

**Black History Month**

**Some of the children's literature used in January's learning experience plans:**

**Letter To Amy- Ezra Keats**

**Herman's Letter- Tom Percival  
The Post Office Book- Gail Gibbons  
Love Waves- Rosemary Wells  
Mail Truck's Busy-Traci Todd Peyton  
My Friend and I- Lisa Jahn Clough  
Rainbow Fish-` Marcus Pfister  
Hair Love – Matthew A. Cherry**

**Examples of learning experiences extended from the books read:**

**The children learned songs and rhymes about love, kindness, postal workers, mail and community helpers**

**Teacher lead discussions consisting of open ended questions on the above focus areas**

**Children worked in the art area making a classroom friendship collage and shiny one of a kind individual rainbow fish.**

**Through development of their fine motor skills the children created the letters in their names and the names of others. Some are forming letters while others are strengthening their skills by getting used to the movement and feel of holding a writing tool**

**While learning about friendship and feelings the class discussed how music can make us feel. At the science table instruments of differing sizes and shapes were displayed for children to explore. The children experimented with the sounds that the instruments make and how each made them feel**

**After discussing certain jobs and how these jobs help our community the children enjoyed dressing as various community helpers and playing the part**

**At the math center, children were given the opportunity to make a sensory bag using gel and pom poms, counting the number of pomp oms they put in the bag**

**The children were introduced to Alma Woodsey, the first Black woman to have a show at the Whitney Museum of American Art and to have work acquired by the White House. After observing and discussing the different pieces she painted the children, inspired by her works, painted their own pictures.**

**Home/School Connection Activities:**

**The children and their teachers danced together at school and talked about how dancing made them feel. After checking in on the mood meter they noticed most of the class was in the yellow and feeling happy and energetic. Families were asked to dance at home with their family and talk about how they feel when**

dancing together. The teacher also asked the families to upload a video on google classroom of the family dancing that the teacher would share with their friends at school

Supplies were sent home so each family could make a sensory bottle with their child. Families posted pictures on google classroom of the sensory bottles the children made and were later shared at school with their friends.

A short video about black female artist, Alma Woodsey's life and artwork was shared with the families on google classroom. Using her work as inspiration, the families were asked to paint something together, take a picture of it, and share it on google classroom for all to enjoy.

## **Addendum D**

School Readiness Report  
Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.  
Maple Avenue SR/HS Classrooms 2, 3, 7, 11

### **February 2022**

- Program Utilization
  - a. Authorized Capacity: – 240– Full Day; 20- Extended Day= 60
  - b. Enrolled: 75 (just SR rooms)
  - c. Ages (on site): 3 year olds-20; 4 year olds-52; 5 year olds-5
  - d. Children with disabilities: - IEP; – 6
  - e. Average Daily Attendance: 88%
  - f. Number of children attending on site- 75
  - g. Number of children enrolled in distant learning- N/A
- Program Attendance:
  - a. 94% of slot Utilization –February

### **CLC Maple Avenue**

- Staffing:

## Open Positions- Room 2 Teacher Aide

- Activities/Enrichment/Specials: Teachers are finishing the Clothes unit of study, and will be starting the unit of study on Buildings in March.

- Monthly Meetings:

<b>Curriculum Collaboration Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussed vocabulary scaling to support DLL children</li></ul>	<b>Staff Development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training from SPS IC on Documentation &amp; Assessment 2/3/22</li></ul>	<u>Community Involvement / Enrichment Program:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Filling in the blanks dry goods food distribution</li></ul>
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- Next Month
  - a. Policy Council March Meeting,
  - b. School Readiness Council March Meeting
  - c. March 11<sup>th</sup> Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

## Addendum E