

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Present: Sarah Dufresne, Katie Bell, Pat Schneider, Judy Stoughton, Lisa Dahn, Miguel Colon, Erin Clark, Jane Goldman, Denise Kegler, Shamim Patwa, Tracy Smith, Anne Bladen, Jillene Woodmansee

Lisa Dahn recognized Erin Clark for picking up masks and test kits for the centers twice in the last few weeks. Lisa Dahn also recognized Town of Mansfield staff for delivering masks and test kits to the centers as well.

Jane Goldman recognized center directors and staff for their diligence through all of the changes and adjustments that have been made due to COVID-19.

The Library was also recognized for the amazing snow sculpture that was constructed on the front lawn after the snow storm last week.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 1, 2021 Minutes were approved by consensus at 5:37 PM

4. SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL ITEMS/STAFF REPORT.

a. Update on changes to the Helping Hands Program

- i. Jillene Woodmansee from Planning & Development joined to talk about changes to the Helping Hands program which provides childcare and food assistance to families affected by COVID-19.
- ii. Changes include increased qualifying incomes, families from nearby towns can now apply, and the childcare assistance qualifies for any licensed care center including summer camps and afterschool programs.
- iii. Funding is available through December 2022.

b. MAC Recruitment Initiatives

- i. The OEC has made changes relating to School Readiness Council (SRC) governance.

1. SRC must document efforts to ensure racial, ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the council reflects that of the town.
2. At least 25% of membership should be parents/guardians of children eligible to attend a SR program.
3. It was suggested to add MAC to the list of committees looking for members.
4. It was also suggested to send out information about MAC in the public school weekly newsletter, along with the weekly Community Update email to gain members.
5. Centers will also see if parents who are currently members of their boards would be interested in joining MAC.

C. Monitoring Visits

- i. Sarah Dufresne, the School Readiness Liaison, will perform the site monitoring visits going forward.
- ii. Visits were done at all SR sites. Sarah Dufresne visited Mt. Hope Montessori, UConn Child Labs and Community Children's Center. Katie Bell performed the visit at Mansfield Discovery Depot.
 1. There were no problems discovered at any site.
 2. Small classroom ratios allowed for greater teacher interactions.
 3. There was a large focus on the arts at each center, with many of them displaying paintings in the styles of famous artists done by the children.
 4. The only thing that could not be looked at closely was the outdoor areas because the grounds were covered in snow. For this the centers were asked to show us their most recent state inspection and none of the centers were cited for outdoor safety concerns.

d. FY23 Grant Updates

- i. The OEC is holding a meeting on February 8, 2022 to go over the FY23 RFP
- ii. The RFP link will be available by the end of February 2022.

5. CLOSING/ UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.