

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Present: Jocelyn Santiago, Denise Kegler, Sarah Dufresne, Katie Bell, Deb Plourde, Kathleen Krider, Emily Webson, Erin Clark, Rachel Velles, Charles Ausburger, Brian Coleman, Shamim Patwa, Marianne Legassey

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the beginning of the meeting, though it did reopen at the end. See '6. CLOSING/ UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS' for public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The March 2023 Minutes were approved by consensus at 5:37 PM.

5. SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL ITEMS/STAFF REPORT

- b. Jocelyn Santiago reported on the status of the FY24 RFP. All programs have submitted their spreadsheets (contact information, spacing and budget forms). Jocelyn Santiago has compiled all documents into one community spreadsheet.
- c. Sarah Dufresne and Jocelyn Santiago will meet to review the grant application together prior to submitting.
- d. Jocelyn Santiago shared that statewide, only 84% of School Readiness spaces were filled this past fiscal year. Mansfield has been awarded 7 new school readiness slots from the OEC's School Readiness slot reallocation process. Mansfield now holds 32 School Readiness slots.
- e. Kathleen Krider inquired why only 84% of School Readiness slots have been utilized across the state this past fiscal year. Jocelyn Santiago shared that Commissioner Beth Bye stated this was due to families finding private nanny-style childcare, as well as, Priority districts leaving a buffer of open spaces for high-need families who may later come onto the grant.
- f. Marianne Legassey inquired if it was OK for families who are on the Child Day Care grant to apply for the School Readiness grant as well. Sarah Dufresne and Jocelyn Santiago answered yes-- it is encouraged by the OEC for families with a high need to apply for both.

- g. Shamim Patwa made a motion to approve the FY24 School Readiness funding for Community Children's Center as submitted for the School Readiness grant. Kathleen seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carries.
- h. Kathleen Krider made a motion to approve the FY24 School Readiness funding for Mansfield Discovery Depot as submitted for the School Readiness grant. Shamim Patwa seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carries.
- i. Emily Webson made a motion to approve the FY24 School Readiness funding for Mount Hope Montessori School as submitted for the School Readiness grant. Shamim Patwa seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carries.
- j. Kathleen Krider made a motion to approve the FY24 School Readiness funding for UConn Child Development Laboratories as submitted for the School Readiness grant. Rachel Velles seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carries.
- k. ARPA applications have been submitted. Still waiting to hear back on approval. Jocelyn Santiago will be in touch with eligible centers when she has more information.
- l. Jocelyn Santiago shared she has received the application for the Enrollment-Based grant for School Readiness and Child Day Care funded programs. That is due to the OEC by April 14th.
- m. Jocelyn Santiago shared that MAC is actively seeking and recruiting new parent members.
- n. Jocelyn Santiago reported on her Monitoring Visits at the School Readiness funded centers. All went wonderfully, as expected. Minor things noted like building up mulch under playground fall zones, touching up chipping paint and rust on outdoor materials, and troubles accessing pre-literacy professional development opportunities.
- o. Children's Librarian, Emily Webson, shared that the library has been doing visits at Early Childhood Centers in Mansfield, to read to and engage with the pre-school and toddler classrooms.
- p. Emily Webson also shared the flyer of April Special Events at the library. There will be lots going on during April School Vacation week.
- q. Jocelyn Santiago shared about her visit to tour the Mansfield Public Library and was amazed by all they have to offer.

6. CLOSING/ UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Ian Matthew Harrington from Access will join the May meeting to share about his Trauma Informed Care trainings.
- b. A motion was made by Kathleen Krider to reopen item 3, public comment. Shamim Patwa seconded.
- c. Councilman and Mansfield resident, Brian Coleman, brought forward concerns regarding the new Mansfield Elementary School. He reported that Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth and Superintendent Peter Dart have already sent out a letter notifying families of these concerns. Mr. Coleman wanted to keep MAC informed. Members of MAC agreed it is great for us to be informed and thanked Mr. Coleman for his comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.