

Middletown School Readiness Council
12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Wednesday, April 24, 2012
Wilbert Snow School
299 Wadsworth St.
Middletown, CT 06457

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TOWN CLERK
MIDDLETOWN, CONN.

Members Present: Betsy Morgan, Christine Fahey, Sheila Daniels, Amy Waterman, Wendy Berling, Susan Macary, Alice Torres, and Jerome Long.

I. Welcome & Call to Order: Betsy Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:11 P.M.

II. Announcements: A flyer from Middlesex Community College about accelerated summer courses in early childhood education in Meriden was circulated. "Human Rights Crisis in Our Public Schools" with speaker Edward Miller will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd in New Haven. Alice announced that under the federal sequestration, Early Head Start (EHS) will lose ten spaces for the remainder of the year. She noted that they won't need to exit families; they will transition families out and not fill empty spaces. The budget process for 2014 and beyond is not complete at this time. Some funds will be brought back, but programs have been told not to plan for that. Amy suggested that families in the Macdonough and Farm Hill school districts can be served by the Family Resource Center home visitor. Chris noted that there are funds for EHS in the President's Early Education Plan and asked Alice if she could elaborate on that. Alice responded that at this point she was not sure what that entails. It looks more like child care services, not funding for additional EHS slots. Alice will be attending a Head Start leadership conference and expects to learn more there about both sequestration impacts and the president's early childhood plan and will report back at the May meeting.

III. Acceptance of the Mar. 20, 2012 School Readiness Council meeting:

Wendy Berling moved to accept the minutes from the above mentioned date. Susan Macary seconded. Sheila Daniels noted that Christine O'Grady's name was not included in last month's attendance. The motion carried unanimously with that amendment.

IV. Financial Report: was distributed and showed an unearned balance of \$16,337. It was noted that all spaces are filled and we are on target to spend down the grant.

V. Coordinator's Report:

Monthly Report: Our parent fee collection has increased each month. There is no explanation for the \$20,000 increase over last month. Chris will explore the reasons for this with the providers at their next meeting.

School Readiness Grant RFP: Chris thanked the Grants Committee for all of their work reviewing the grant applications. A total of 262 spaces were requested. The only change in programming is with Middlesex closing and the YMCA program applying for those spaces to operate classrooms at both Macdonough School and Bielefield Schools. Details are being worked out now.

The 2013-14 allocation recommendation from the Grants Committee is:

	Spaces Requested	Amount Requested	Spaces Allocated	Amount Allocated
Middletown Public Schools	60 part day	\$270,000	60 part day	\$270,000
SmartEarly Learning Center	50 full day	\$417,300	50 full day	\$417,300
South Farms Nursery School	18 full day	\$150,228	18 full day	\$150,228
Town and Country Early Learning Center	56 full day	\$467,376	56 full day	\$467,376
Y.M.C.A.	51 full day	\$425,646	51 full day	\$425,646
	27 school day	\$162,000	27 school day	\$162,000
TOTAL SPACES	262 spaces	\$1,892,550	262 spaces	\$1,892,550
Administrative		\$100,000		\$100,000
TOTAL GRANT		\$1,992,550		\$1,992,550

Alice Torres moved to approve the allocations as outlined above and recommended by the Grants Committee. Wendy Berlind seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Kindergarten Kick Start Program Summer 2013: Amy Waterman reported that \$30,000 was awarded for a three year period for this program. A parent component will be added this summer program. She also noted that interventionists will serve as the certified teachers and will collect pre and post data on the academic progress of the children participating in the program.

Quality Enhancement Grant: Two bids were received, one from the United Way to operate the Middletown Early Childhood Network program and one from ACES to provide consultation and coaching.

2013-14 Quality Enhancement proposal:

Middletown Early Childhood Network	\$7,380
ACES Professional Development Project	\$18,000
TOTAL	\$25,380

Susan Macary moved to adopt the grant proposal as outlined. Amy Waterman seconded. The motion carried with abstentions from Alice Torres and Sheila Daniels.

Discovery Grant: A budget proposal for the 2013-14 fiscal year was distributed and reviewed. Discussion followed. Jerome Long moved to accept the budget as outlined. Wendy Berlind seconded. The motion carried with an abstention from Sheila Daniels.

Sustainability Session: is being offered by the Graustein Memorial Fund to discuss strategies for communities to sustain their local work. This meeting will be held May 14th from 9:30 – 3:00. A team that includes members from each collaborative - the Middlesex Coalition for Children, Opportunity Knocks, and the School Readiness Council – should attend. Chris will e-mail the details to the representative from each collaborative.

Health Data Institute Update: Susan reported that the second session of the Health Data Institute was held yesterday. Monica Belyea and Joan Rand, school nurse at Snow Preschool, are attending the institute along with the YMCA is also participating in this project. A total of eight communities are participating in this

program. They are working on collecting data from the early childhood yellow health forms. Findings will be reported at the state, community and program level. The goal is to create an E.C. Database for the state. Discussion followed. Susan noted that the next and last meeting is on May 21st. CHDI is hoping to have another session to include additional cities and towns.

Appropriations Budget: It was noted that the Appropriations Committee restored Even Start, Family School Connection, and supported the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). Licensing and Family Resource Centers were not on the list to be included in this new office, but hopes are that over time they will be included in the OEC.

President's Early Childhood Plan: Copies of the President's plan were distributed to the Council. Increased access to preschool for low and middle income children, helping states provide high quality preschool programing, investing more in EHS and Head Start, expansion of voluntary home visiting programs and full-day kindergarten programs are the main components of the plan.

Week of the Young Child: Celebrations were held the week prior to school vacation. Grand Rounds on April 11th showcased a presentation by Dr. Marlene Swartz focusing on marketing foods to children. Those that attended found it to be a very informative presentation. The annual art show at Russell Library was held and is ongoing through May. Programs had daily activities celebrating the week. Preschool program tours of the elementary schools also took place.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M. with thanks to those in attendance.

The next meeting of the Middletown School Readiness Council will take place on

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

from

12:00 - 1:30 P.M.

at

Wilbert Snow School

299 Wadsworth St.

Middletown, CT 06457

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sheila C. Daniels

