

Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative (TECC) Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on May 9, 2016. Meeting Called to Order at 12:05p.m. by Mary Cecchinato, TECC Co-chair. Minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved with the correction of meeting adjournment time to 2:10p.m.

In Attendance: Elaine Hanscom/TECC, Donna Labbe/TECC & Torrington Public Schools (TPS), Kristen Fern/Forbes Kindergarten, Cindy Marchell/Forbes Grade 3, Judy Courtot/EDUCATION CONNECTION, Dawn Markelon/Torrington Grade 2, Sara Osborne/McCall Center, Charlene Lee/Brooker Memorial, Patrice Nelson/CT Center for School Change, Jan Sosnicki/Hilltop Early Learning Center, Debbie Collins/Future Foundations, Mary Cecchinato/Torrington Child Care Center

Items Discussed:

School Readiness (SR) Update-

- Three local SR Request for Proposals were received and reviewed by a small group & Community Request for Proposal due to the state June 3rd. A motion was made and passed to accept the small group's recommendation to move forward with the three applicants: Hilltop Early Learning Center, Head Start and Torrington Child Care Center. It is a renewal year and all three programs met the qualifications.

Budget Update-

- State funding is in question for 33 existing half day slots in Torrington as well as the community plans line item and early literacy line item.
- TECC will be meeting with the Community Foundation of NWCT regarding possible funding opportunities locally.
- The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund has released a new request for proposal for a learning opportunity around their new mission of economic and racial equity in education, with funds to be awarded in the fall.
- The TECC Steering Team is working on a strategy based budget ongoing.

Birth to 8 Community Plan Implementation-

- Summer Learning Loss Activities Follow Up- The community summer passport program will run this summer. The passport is going to print. More than a dozen organizations have agreed to come on board as community partners in this effort. There will be school level prizes offered to participants. This will be an opportunity to market TECC and to thank our community champions.
- Strategy III: To assure aligned high quality professional development for anyone working with children is the Education Work Group's focus for this fiscal year. Additional survey results regarding professional development needs were received and the responses have doubled in number. Most who responded have worked with children for more than ten years. Next steps are to share the updated results with the district staff in charge of professional development and the literacy and numeracy coaches at each school, as well as with the principals and early child care directors. There was some discussion about how information is shared regarding existing professional development opportunities in the community and what tools there might be to help disseminate that information more effectively. Topic for future discussion is the Pre-K to Kindergarten alignment of professional development.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10p.m. Next Education Workgroup meeting scheduled for June 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Hanscom, TECC Secretary.