Danbury School Readiness Council

Minutes

Date: November 13, 2019  Time: 3-4:30 p.m.  Location: 4 Mountainview Terrace, Suite 201, Danbury 06810

Attendance: Anne Mead, Jennifer Pane, Tara Carvalho, Elizabeth Quinonez, Mark Meyer, Nicole Schutz, Linda Borkowski, Robin Eckstein, Nicole Taxiltaridis, Claudia Anderson, Dr. Sal, and Eileen Costello.

Minutes approved: by Mark Meyer and 2nd by Claudia Anderson. Minutes are posted on EdAdvance website, DPS website, and City Hall. Minutes from September were edited to reflect acronyms and an addition was made.

Announcements: Welcome to new members! Nicole Taxiltaridis is new Early Learning Director from CIFI.

Agenda Item: Consultant Report – Will be attached to the minutes.
Main Points: WCSU closed. Slots were dispersed to 3 programs. Families also utilized programs that had empty spaces. Some funding is going back to the OEC since we reallocated all the funding we could to our current programs in good standing. Fall program visits went well. Trainings occurred on the CT DOTS. QE Update- So far, the DSRC sponsored 4 workshops. Legislative initiatives were discussed.
Decisions/Next Steps: Michelle Anderson will serve as McKinney-Vento Liaison. The McKinney-Vento Liaison for DPS will be asked.

Agenda Item: Community Sharing
Main Points: Liz Q. from UW talked about Cora’s Kids (28 FCC providers and 6 are full). United Way is providing PD on Business supports for these FCC Providers. In addition, offering 1,000 for supplies and paying for 1 year of liability insurance. Maureen F. from the YMCA shared information about the BMI project. In addition, information was shared on the cooperative grant with the Coalition for Healthy Kids to offer fruits and vegetables to 5 programs. Nicole S. shared information about the Birth to Three system.
Tara C. from the Danbury Public Library announced they have a new project with Union Savings Bank to provide outreach to smaller programs. They could visit larger programs in the interim. The project provides book bins, models best practices for sharing literacy with kids. Tara would like to get out to centers to share information on the library, attending reading days and parent nights. Mark M. mentioned his center offered some digital book training for providers and other professional development on resources for teachers.
Decisions/Next Steps: Maureen Farrell will be conducting focus groups on health and dental. More dental services through CIFIC is happening. Jennifer Pane suggested we explore a resource for children on sleep issues 3-10.

Agenda Item: Superintendent Update
Main Points: Space and letter to Council members
Decisions/Next Steps: The need for space continues to be a challenge. Growth happening in high school grades. 5-year projection of 3,600 students already met. 2020 Committee working on space issues. Anne reported up to 3-7 new registrants a day at DPS.