Danbury School Readiness Council
Minutes

Date: September 11, 2019  Time: 3:430  Location: 4 Mountainview Terrace, Suite 201, Danbury 06810

Attendance: Anne Mead, Michele Coppotelli, Aimee Kaplan, Judy Sims, Jennifer Pane, Tara Carvalho, Elizabeth Quinonez, Mark Meyer, Nicole Schutz, Linda Borkowski, Robin Eckstein, Michelle James, Susan Giglio, Maureen Farrell, Claudia Anderson, Michelle Anderson, and Eileen Costello.

Minutes approved: by Jennifer Pane and 2nd by Michelle J. Minutes are posted on EdAdvance website, DPS website, and City Hall.

Announcements: Welcome to new members! Discussed the WCSU Early Learning Center closing and thanked at SR providers for helping with the closing by enrolling students, etc.

Agenda Item: Consultant Report – Attached to the minutes
Main Points: Summer PD day was reviewed K Transition nights, legislative issues were discussed and results of last legislative session was shared. Discussed occurred again about Head Start late enrollment and its impact. The Liaison will work to develop an MOU with the program.

Decisions/Next Steps: areas to work on QSM and a review of SR policies. 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 (13 new FCC providers most have openings). United Way is providing PD for these FCC Providers. A 7-week community messenger program will start. Maureen F. from the YMCA talk about GO 5210 Murals being used at schools. They can offer parent and staff workshops and will come out to sites. 600 kids in garden programs at Y. This summer they partnered with Jericho for swim and garden programming. Robin from Positive Discipline CT is offering parent education to several SR sites including Action and Interfaith for 1 hour for 6 weeks. A TOT will be out in October on the Positive Discipline series. Anne from DPS shared Anne Henderson – a national speaker on family engagement will be coming to Danbury. Weekend backpack food programs ended, and they are looking into an alternative food truck to come to Danbury for families to access. Tara from the Danbury Public Library announced there is a new full-time children’s coordinator with a birth to school age focus. She shared there are some new materials such as Wonderbooks, STEAM Story Bags, and a Story Van to bring books to families. Union Savings bank helped fund this. Summer reading was good. 820 older school age children and 525 elementary aged children participated. EdAdvance announced some PD offerings that they are providing.

Decisions/Next Steps: Maureen Farrell will be conducting focus groups on health and dental. More dental services through CIFC is happening. Jennifer Pane suggested we explore a resource for children on sleep issues 3-10.

Agenda Item: Superintendent Update
Main Points: Space and K enrollment

Decisions/Next Steps: Anne Mead reported 619 new families over expectation. Testing 75 students a day for ELL, many new to the country or from Bronx or Yonkers. Michelle C. reported that the SPED staff increased due to enrollment. Over 33 new staff. Still a need for paras. 300 Preschools with special education and typicals. They need 20-25 more typicals for SPED PreK playgroups. Dr. Sal reaching out to CSDE for more $ for schools or a building. 7 schools of distinction last year, great education is
bringing more families to Danbury. Asking Mayor for more funds and/or promise for a new building. Need for more intervention programs.