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**COLLABORATIVE FOR COLCHESTER’S CHILDREN**

**May 2, 2023**

**Leadership Work Group Meeting**

**Cragin/Google Meet Hybrid**

**9:00-10:30 am**

**Attendance:** Sara Perrin, Nina Bryant, Teresa Messervy, Cindy Praisner, Laurie Buyniski, Julia Lash, Brittany Hebert, Nicole Beauchamp, Ashley Starrett, Beth Tiezzi, Meghan Amado, Sharon Wilinski, Rosemary Gignac, Dan Sullivan

**Partner Updates**

Cragin - S. Perrin has returned to Cragin as Programming Assistant. (Welcome back!) Gearing up for Summer Reading to begin at the end of June. Updating Book-it kits including potty training and nighttime/bedtime.

TVCCA/WIC - T. Messervy reported that uncertainties in town have affected Head Start preschool services. The market is saturated with Preschool spaces. Considering a Public School collaborative where liaison would bridge services from classroom to home. In this case, students must be enrolled for at least 4 hrs a day and so cannot be arranged with part day preschool. Head Start has had a classroom in Colchester since 2010 (and in prior years as well) and is now facing challenges with low enrollment. Early Head Start will continue; however, not sustaining 10 Colchester families and therefore will be re-evaluating the need and will move funding to other towns as appropriate. Required to be fully enrolled for grant funding, and must consider waitlists in other surrounding towns. Staff appreciation week to recognize staff for hard work. Gave members a ceramic planter set as a year end gift. (Thank you!)

JJIS -no update

CASTLE - Staff is focused on Summer program planning and Fall enrollment. Currently have some afternoon spots, summer openings for school ages. Preparing for NAEYC accreditation.

CES - M. Amado reported that the CECP program is expecting a NAEYC accreditation visit, which has been delayed since January. Waiting for the final budget number from the Board of Finance; however, planning to move forward with ½ day Preschool only, 3 classrooms with AM & PM sections. School day classrooms will no longer be offered. Plan to pull the Preschool lottery on Monday, May 8th after school. Will guarantee those spaces at a minimum due to Special Ed needs. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on May 11th, organized so that ½ families will attend at 4:30pm (last names A-M),and at 5:30pm (last names N-Z) in order to better manage attendance. Orientation will include a presentation for parents, meeting teachers, visiting classrooms and participating in activities to gather information on skills of students, which will help with placements. Parent input surveys have been distributed and working with local daycares to complete permission slips for families to allow preschools to give information on their students. Hopeful for full day kindergarten, still waiting for budget decisions. The last Kindergarten Storytime event will take place on May 9th at 11:10. Incoming Kindergarten students will listen to stories read by Kindergarten teachers while parents hear presentations from staff.

**Parent Council Updates**

Parent Council Co-Leaders: B. Hebert updated members on recent Parent Council efforts including determining meeting times (in person vs virtual); however, expressed difficulty with keeping up the momentum in terms of building a cadre of parents for consistency and support with projects. Brainstormed idea of offering committed volunteers a specific and meaningful role that coincides with their interests and talents.

Fundraisers include Mel’s (April 24), Plum Tomato (May 18th) and Kidsignments (June 3rd). Planning to ask Family Pizza to host a Dine Out fundraiser in June. J. Lucco is planning a Fun Run event for the Fall. Working towards recruiting new parents to participate. Concerned about staffing farmer’s markets due to time commitment. Agreed to review the schedule for special market dates such as Kids Day, Costume Day, etc. and attend those since they are family focused and have had good success in the past.

Looking for a lightweight opportunity to spread awareness such as more brochures at daycares and during fundraisers.

B. Tiezzi hosted a playdate during Mel’s fundraiser, earned $153.

Parent Council members discussed making efforts to reach families when they are already attending community events such as sports opening day, rec plex, etc. Considering an advertising banner at the baseball field.

Parent Ambassadors: J. Lash and A. Dunbar-Willbanks have had heavy involvement with the Board of Education budget process including attending meetings and communicating with families. Planning to meet with Head Start. Unsure of what next year will look like in terms of OEC roles, recently the position has become more of a community role rather than work at the state level. Parent Cabinet meeting took place on April 21st. Survey data was reviewed, C. Praisner presented information about C3 for meeting participants. Connecticut is a model for other states that are attempting to develop similar programs.

Council members discussed how to move forward with Parent Leadership opportunities and decided to merge the positions for Parent Council Co-Leaders and Parent Ambassador in order to balance the workload and coordination. New Parent Leadership application is now available, and will be distributed through email and social media.

**C3 Budget Update**

C. Praisner reported that spending is on track.

**School Budget Update**

Council members discussed the current stage of the Board of Education budget process and reviewed information regarding potential cuts. D. Sullivan answered questions, offered explanations and provided background information.

**Strengthening LECC Grant**

C. Praisner reviewed the proposed budget for the LECC grant. If funds are distributed as expected, spending must be completed by December. Planning to offer Conscious Discipline training for providers and will open to parents if space is available. Also, Circle of Security Facilitator training, to enhance the reflective process with participants.

**Self Assessment**

C. Praisner will send out the Annual C3 Self-Assessment form via email and asked council members to complete it.

**Meeting Dates for 2023-2024**

To be determined. Have a great summer!

Submitted by:

Laurie Buyniski, Assistant to the Coordinator