 Annual Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2023

Bacon Academy Rm 1123

6:30 pm

Attendees: Stefanie Tracey-Calash, Nicole Beauchamp, Kaitlin Cassidy, Jess Lynch, Abigail Dunbar-Willbanks, Julia Lash, Jennifer Reynolds, Kate Byroade, Jennifer Rummel, Debora Murphy, Sara Roberts, Ron Goldstein, Julia Smith, Judy O’Meara, Sharon Wilinski, Brittany Hebert, Jackie Lucco, Dan Sullivan, Nina Bryant, Beth Tiezzi, and Joy Lenares.

1. C. Praisner opened the meeting with a quote from Parent Nation about the importance of policies that support families in their homes, communities and workplaces. She discussed the state efforts to improve access, quality, and affordability to childcare through its Blue Ribbon Panel.
2. BA Family and Consumer Science Program- Meeting was hosted in the classroom of Julia Smith who teaches the preschooler class and oversees the Bacon Bobcat preschool program. Julia shared details about her program.
3. C3 Leadership Roles- C.Praisner identified Julia Lash as our Parent Council Lead and OEC Parent Ambassador. Abigail Dunbar-Willbanks is our second Parent Ambassador. Britt Hebert and Julia Lash are C3 Co-Chairs for the Leadership Work Group. Jennifer Rummel and Kaitlin Cassidy are Co-Chairs for the School Readiness Council.
4. C3 Advocacy Efforts- C.Praisner shared our charge to advocate for policies and programs that support our local, state, and federal early childhood systems and supports. She highlighted the visit of State Representative Mark DeCaprio last fall.
5. New Weekend Programming- C3 staff heard parents requesting Joyful Noises programming on the weekends and began scheduling Saturday sessions at the library. They have been very popular with over 188 attending the 3 offered sessions.
6. Child/Parent Programs Offered- C3 offered Joyful Noises, Baby and Me, Stroller Walks and a hike for families. Over 135 families participated.
7. Parent Education- C3 offered 62 sessions of learning opportunities with 61 parents participating. Circle of Security, Conscious Discipline, Build Your Bounce, PEP and Toilet Learning were all offered last year. Our PEP graduates held a very successful laundry detergent drive for the Food Bank.
8. Outreach- LECC grant funds allowed us to do several outreach activities including 2 inserts in the Rivereast, Farmer’s Market booths with give–aways, our first Community Baby Shower and more!
9. Sparkler App- C3 received a $10,000 grant to encourage the use of the Sparkler app. C.Praisner described the apps benefit for families. Kaitlin Cassidy has accepted the role of Sparkler Champion. Funding is through January 2024.
10. Changes to School Readiness spaces- C3 was able to request and receive an additional 10 Full Day spaces from the State at the end of 2022-23 school year. Unfortunately, due to a technicality with Town and Country’s legal name, there were not able to receive the funding. The Colchester Public Schools were able to reinstate the School Day classroom with the funding intended for the full-day spaces for a total of 14 School Day spaces and 21 Part Day spaces. Castle also gained a School Day space for a total of 10 spaces.
11. Coordinator Salary Change- With an increase in School Readiness funding, there was also an increase in the accompanying administration funding for the School Readiness Liaison position. Cindy Praisner will add an additional 21 hours to her annual hours for a total of 156. She was also given a 2.25% raise. Additionally, the allocation of funding coming from the C3 “donation account” will be decreased. Her total salary for 2023-24 is proposed to be $43,317.
12. Budget Review- C.Praisner reviewed the final expenditures for 2022-23.
13. Budget Adoption- C.Praisner reviewed the proposed budget for C3 and the adopted budget for the School Readiness Council. **Motion: To approve the budget as proposed including the changes in Coordinator salary for Cindy Praisner. Moved by Dan Sullivan and seconded by Kate Byroade. Unanimously approved.**
14. Volunteer of the Year- Sharon Wilinksi was recognized for her passion and commitment to connecting families to C3.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by Cindy Praisner