



## Colchester School Readiness Council

Jan 26, 2023

CES Conference Room

**Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Cindy Praisner, Laurie Buyniski, Judy O'Meara, Kaitlin Cassidy, Grace Landers, Jennifer Rummel, Kristina Swain, Jennifer Lombardo, Lindsey Therian, Meghan Amado, Margo Gignac

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Update:** No update.

**Current SR Classroom Status:** C. Praisner updated the council on the remaining slots. Castle will fill their last slot in February, CECP has one slot pending family response.

**SR Program Monitoring:** Winter monitoring visits will be scheduled soon. Council discussed the use of the CLASS tool. This assessment requires annual recertification for J. Lenares and C. Praisner (\$125/each), measures interactions in the classroom (climate, relationship and instructional). Reviewed TPOT as an alternative assessment tool, C. Praisner and J. Lenares are already certified, based on the Pyramid Model. C. Praisner will send the tool to programs for review and then decide which will be used for future monitoring visits.

**SR Budget Update:** C. Praisner reviewed the budget. Castle will accept the 2 remaining spots for Pathways to Empower online Professional Development course. C. Praisner asked that programs share professional development plans for teachers in whatever form they are currently using.

**Sparkler Update:** C. Praisner reviewed the community Sparkler summary, currently at approximately 60 out of a goal of 450. Challenges include: App requires parents to sign up in order to have school/provider screen the child which is a challenge, many accounts are started and have no activity, and when new ASQ is available old version is kicked out of system so it looks like the report is incomplete. J. O'Meara reported that for CECP there is a link to the app on the school website, still having low participation, teachers are using paper versions of a different screening tool in the classroom. J. O'Meara will report back with the number of students screened. Council considering ASQ incentive for teachers instead of gift cards to families.

**Decision Making Policy Changes:** C. Praisner reviewed the decision making policy changes which require 25% to be parents. Council members discussed and agreed that 5 of 10 sectors must be present at a vote and each parent receives their own vote. Policy documents will be updated to reflect these changes.


**Cost of Care:** C. Praisner reviewed the Cost of Care submitted by programs:

CECP - \$750/annually Part Day, \$1500/annually School Day

Castle - \$190/week School Day (9-3pm),

**School Readiness Audit:** Castle does not need to complete an audit but must provide the amount of State funding received last year. The amount is \$54,000 from the SR Grant and \$29,908 from Care4Kids. CECP is audited through the town's full audit completed annually.

**Hardship/Fee Change request:** A SR family requested a fee waiver; the council discussed and granted a 3 month waiver.

**Childcare and Preschool Space Survey:** C. Praisner reviewed the space survey results from local providers. See attached.  Colchester Early Care and Education Capacity 2022-23  
Town & Country Early Learning is currently renovating the building in front of Town Hall and plans to open by July. Offers SR slots at other locations and plans to apply for SR Full Day slots. This would reduce the tuition income for other programs if slots were granted to T&C.

**Meeting Date:** Due to the cancellation of the December 8th meeting, the council agreed to add May 18th to the calendar as the 6th meeting of the year.

**Selection Policy Updates for 23-24:** The council members reviewed and approved a draft for the change from Part-Day to School Day space and new language for not yet three year old applicants. Updates will be noted in 23-24 policy documents.

#### **2022-2023 Meeting Dates**

March 2, 2023

April 27, 2023

May 18, 2023

Submitted by:

Laurie Buyniski, Assistant to the Coordinator