Danbury School Readiness Council
Minutes

Date: November 18, 2020  Time: 3-4:00 p.m.  Location: ZOOM (Virtual meeting)

Attendance: Michelle Anderson, Eileen Costello, Tara Carvalho, Maria Vargas, Claudia Anderson, Michelle James, Anne Mead, Amy Kaplan, Judy Sims, Michelle Coppotelli, Linda Borkowski, Liz Quinones, Nicole Taxiltaridis, Sue Giglio, Nicole Schutz, Yazmin Iglesias, Dr. Sal, Mayor Boughton, Anne Mead, Thea Veiner (intern FNNWC).

Minutes approved: by Claudia Anderson and 2nd by Michelle James. Minutes posted on the EdAdvance website.

Announcements:

Main Points: Eileen C. review professional development taking place. QE application was approved by Council to be used for professional development for SR teachers. Claudia Anderson made the motion, Judy Sims, 2nd the motion. Sue Giglio abstained from the vote. Program closings were discussed. All programs signed a waiver which gave programs 2 weeks flexibility to close, if needed, due to the virus. Per OEC, we are still in compliance. Council approved this waiver. Distance Learning plans are being developed for the local SR programs. Eileen continues to work on take home kits for families, ordering supplies, PPE and hosted a Barnes and Nobles Book Fair for the 10 SR programs.

Decisions/Next Steps – Monitor center closings.

Agenda Item: Superintendent / District Update/City Update
Main Points: Mayor Boughton gave an update on the city. He was appreciated of the EC community and shared highlights of some of the city accomplishments with EC. ECS funding is city’s top priority. Discussion occurred on space and how DPS is expanding classrooms in the city. DPS slated to open Jan. 16th hybrid. 3,500 children almost impossible to social distance. School is looking to hire. Vaccine distribution plan being worked on. Talked about city’s plan for controlling virus, controls on business, restaurants. Dr. Sal agreed on Mayor’s points as his updates as well. Linda B. mentioned EC community is forgotten in all of this and needs to be recognized. The Mayor pointed out that we need to follow Gov. Ex. Orders and local does not always rule.

Decisions/Next Steps

Agenda Item: Community Sharing
Main Points: All Our Kin talked on bringing on a licensing coordinator for FCC providers. They are doing webinars for providers on support them. AOK staff working remotely. Birth to Three – Nicole S. shared evaluations and visits mostly remote. Families are being very resilient with the changes. Maria Vargas reported positive discipline classes were going on and for the SR programs in Spanish and English via remote format. Families Network of Western CT – Sue reported that home visits were virtual and are well attended. She has seen an uptick in DCF referrals. PLTI begins in January.

Tara from Danbury Public Library reported that the virtual services are robust for k-12 students. Students do need headphones. Books and library cards can be picked up curbside. The library has Distance Learning resources- on-line books, Canopy, and access to videos/you tube. In addition, cards for PreK are available.
Michelle James from CAAWC reported seeing double the families in food bank which is allowed once a month. Also, the diaper bank is up. They have supplies on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. (up to size 6). Over 200 families will be receiving thanksgiving baskets.

**Decisions/Next Steps:** Next meeting Jan. 13th 3:00-4:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Meeting started at 3:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:00 p.m.