

Stafford Childhood Collaborative
Serving as the School Readiness Council for Stafford

Mission Statement: To use the strategies identified in the Stafford Community plan to improve outcomes for children by advocating for policies, programs, and coordination of services.

Meeting Notes for Wednesday October 13, 2021 5:01-6:03 pm via ZOOM

In Attendance: Laura Lybarger, co-chair; Mandy Mayers, co-chair; Anna Gagnon, WSS Principal; Steve Autieri, STEAM, BOE Curriculum and Instruction Director; Rob Terry, STEAM Director; Beth Spanswick, WSS Preschool Teacher; Mary Claire Manning, SES Principal; JoAnn Moriarty, FRC; Crystal Daigneau, Parent, Tolland County Head Start; Jackie Patsun, EHS; Jen Russell, Supervisor Pupil Services; Sandy Fowler, SR Liaison

Agenda item	Reported by	Community plan/ School Readiness Quality component	notes
Welcome	Co-chairs	<i>School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP-C-01); Liaisons are specifically charged with the administration, coordination, and evaluation of the School Readiness grant in collaboration with the OEC</i>	Meeting began with introductions. Welcome Jen Russell, Supervisor of Pupil Services and McKinney-Vento representative. Sandy gave a brief overview of the role of the School Readiness Council as a part of the Stafford Childhood Collaborative. Sandy will send some information on School Readiness, the Council's role, and some background on the SCC. Laura attended an OEC (Office of Early Childhood) session on the role of the SR Council co-chairs and will send the ppt slides to the Council as it provides some good information regarding the July 2021 legislation. Laura will also send the by-laws to the group.
Back to school report; Successes and challenges	Anna Gagnon, WSS Principal Steve Moccio, Superintendent of Schools	<i>SR Component: Program Effectiveness Transition to K plan</i>	Anna reports a smooth back to school transition this year. A number of events were held to help welcome families, including an in person meet and greet with 86% of families attending. A school bus was at the event to help children get familiar and practice safety

			<p>rules. In addition to the in-person event, a video introducing staff with a tour of the schools was sent to all families and was very well received. Every teacher sent welcome letters to their students as well.</p> <p>With the merging of Staffordville and West Stafford, Anna reports an exceptional climate of collaboration and teamwork. At a collective PBIS meeting, Anna asked the group if the school mascot should be changed to acknowledge the merger, and the staff voted no, they would like to keep the WSS Stars as the mascot.</p> <p>Anna reports work has begun on the NAEYC renewal due in the fall of 2023 (submission due fall of 2022). Enrollment info: WSS has 188 students: 101 Kindergarten students and 87 pre-k students. All SR slots are filled and meet the requirement for 60% of funded slots filled with families at or below 75% SMI level.</p> <p>Of the 87 preschool students, 67 are new students, 20 are returning students. Four birth-3 students are scheduled to attend throughout the year, and more birth-3 students can be expected.</p> <p>Of the 101 kindergarten student, 25 have had no preschool experience.</p> <p>Anna adds they continue to practice mitigation strategies, although this is challenging with young children.</p> <p>Beth reminds us that class sizes were smaller last year as part of the mitigation efforts so less children were served.</p>
STEAM Grant Update	STEAM admin/staff	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	Rob reports STEAM began the first day of school and will continue through the end of the school year. Currently STEAM is at capacity, serving 80 students. There is a short wait list. It took most of September to

			<p>fully staff the program, it is now running well. The Junior class is preparing a scavenger hunt for students, and other collaborations with high school students will be considered following safety protocols. Rob also reports staff are positive and minimal student behavior issues.</p> <p>Steve Autieri gave an overview of the grant process and program highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The after school program is a 2 year grant opportunity, Stafford's program is funded through the 2022-23 school year. • This grant cycle was particularly competitive, with approximately 108 applicants and 29 programs funded. • Both Rob and Steve agreed an SEL component (social emotional learning) would be added to the program. • The program increased the number of academic tutors • Program fees provide supplemental funding • All grades are fairly equally represented in enrollment numbers <p>Steve acknowledged SES principal Mary Claire's support as the host school to the program.</p>
Library Update	Jessica Glazier, Stafford Library	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	Jessica was not able to attend, so no report is shared at this time.
Early Head Start Update	Early Head Start	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	<p>Jackie Patsun gave an update on the EHS activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fall Family Gathering will be held Saturday October 16, in collaboration with the FRC. Joann reports 57 families have signed up to attend.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHS and FRC will have a table at Trick or Treat on Main Street. Information will be shared in hopes of recruiting new families. • The position of EHS Coordinator is opened, Anna reports she does have some applicants and is scheduling interviews. • In person visit have resumed. • Currently the EHS has 15 families enrolled, and has funding for 17.
Family Resource Center Update	Joann Moriarty, FRC Leader	<i>SR component: Collaboration</i> Document and implement processes for active collaboration with other community agencies	<p>Joann reports play groups are offered at Hyde Park. She is looking for other venues that may allow indoor groups to resume. One idea is to hold them at Staffordville School. Laura suggest she contact Mary Mitta for information on that location or other town buildings that may be willing to host. Beth suggest the Pavillion at Staffordville may be an option, and Chrystal suggested contacting the First Selectman's office to reserve that location.</p> <p>FRC is collaborating once again with Johnson Memorial Hospital for the Holiday Gift Giving event. Families apply and send wish lists. This year working with Jen Gladu in the WSS office will use technology to streamline information and prevent last minute efforts to gather needed gifts.</p> <p>Joann reports 23 children are enrolled in the FRC childcare program, 17 in preschool. This is a large group. There is an opening for a lead teacher, Anna reports she expects that position to be filled soon.</p>
SR updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for Council membership/survey • Voting of co-chairs 	Sandy Fowler, Liaison Laura Lybarger, co-chair Mandy Mayer, co-chair	Meeting all School Readiness Legislation	<p><i>School Readiness Program Changes as of July 1, 2021</i></p> <p>A new law requires (1) that at least 25% of the membership of each local school readiness council consist of parents of program-eligible children and (2) the council to document efforts to ensure that the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic composition of the</p>

<p>Small group work plan Review of our Community Goals: What have we accomplished? What goals are still applicable? What small group work can be done to identify action steps for goals?</p>			<p>council reflects that of the town. It also changes how the council chairperson is selected. Laura will head up a small group with the task of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a survey to document the efforts to ensure the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the Council reflects the town. • Identify potential Council members, including family members, and ways to encourage participation including materials that would be helpful in describing the SCC, the intersection with the Council, and the role of Council members
<p>Communication plan Facebook page</p>	<p>Laura Lybarger, co-chair</p>	<p><i>SR component: Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach</i></p>	<p>Laura will set up a draft of a facebook page as part of the outreach and recruitment efforts.</p>
<p>Transition to K focus group</p>	<p>Laura Lybarger, co-chair</p>	<p><i>SR Component: Program Effectiveness Transition to K plan</i></p>	<p>Mandy and Anna (along with Beth and a K teacher) will work on questions for a feedback session offered to families regarding their experience with transition to K. An invitation will be given to community programs and family child cares to help identify needs of children entering K. Laura has agreed to host at least 2 conversations based on the questions presented.</p>
<p>Setting dates for meetings</p>	<p>Laura Lybarger, Mandy Mayer co-chairs</p>	<p><i>School Council membership, Responsibilities, and the Role of the Liaison (GP-C-01); Liaisons are specifically charged with the administration, coordination, and evaluation of the School Readiness grant in collaboration with the OEC</i></p>	<p>Wednesdays from 5-6 seem to work well for most. Proposed next meeting dates: Wednesday November 17 Wednesday January 12 Wednesday March 9 Wednesday May 4 (Note: an April meeting may need to be added based on RFP dates)</p>

The legislation has identified specific requirements for School Readiness programs as part of the continuum of services in quality programs that meet the needs of children and families. These indicators include:

- A plan for collaboration with other community programs and services, including public libraries and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child-care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education or training programs;
- Parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- Referrals for health services, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- Nutrition services;
- Referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- Admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- A plan of transition for participating children from the School Readiness program to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program to the kindergarten program:
- A plan for professional development for staff;
- A sliding fee scale for families participating in the program;
- An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program; and
- A plan to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs with children who are not disabled.