*All New Haven families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Council Meeting Notes**

**March 6, 2019**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Announcements**

Sarah Miller: announced a March 20 workshop on K-3 early learning convened by the Aldermanic Education Committee and the NHPS Advocates.

E. Teller: Thank you to the Mayor’s office for tickets to the Graceland event at the Schubert

K. Hagearty announced r’kids is doing a capitol campaign for an expansion of services to serve more infant toddlers with trauma care. She would like to invite all council members to join them in a discussion about the issue. Contact Kathy if you would like to participate.

1. **February Council Meeting Minutes**

Minutes amended to reflect Alison Wunderstahl’s role at All Our Kin is TBD when she returns from maternity leave. Minutes passed as amended.

1. **SR Business**

* **School Readiness Project Director Report**

1. FY19 February Utilization Report (handout, FYI)

We served 18 more children in February compared to January. Still, February utilization was 35 less than our total capacity. The FY20 allocation will be based on the March utilization report.

1. School Readiness Feb 20 Statewide Liaison Meeting-summary

New OEC Commissioner Beth Bye spoke to group. Key takeaways:

* + 1. OEC and OFA looking at the cost of raising SR rates to meet minimum wage of $15/hr. This is projected to add $10mil to SR budget;
    2. Child Care Development Fund, which funds the Care4Kids program, plans to increase rates for I/T and to a smaller extent, SR programs. Will hear more in the next 18months;
    3. Commissioner Bye will be meeting with School Superintendents twice in the next 6 weeks. Her message—Boards of Education should have certified teachers in all preks;
    4. Early Childhood will always be a mix of board of ed and community-based prek programs. Currently statewide there are 6,700 prek children in board of ed programs and 7,200 in community-based programs
    5. In discussion of early childhood outcomes, she would like to see children not tested until the end of kindergarten.
    6. OEC is interested in a community pilot of a birth-5 years system with BOE and CBO working together. Only community currently doing this is Bloomfield.

c) SR monitoring report

18 of 21 SR sub-grantees have had a monitoring visit to review: classroom practices (curriculum, lesson plans, child observation and assessment systems); staff qualifications; professional development plans; teacher evaluations; child files related to income and fee verification; and, parent engagement. Overall, key areas of improvement are in documentation of parent engagement and child files. More teachers are moving toward implementing the DOTS but there is still much work to do here as many do not have systems in place to ensure all areas of development are assessed. With the exception of one program, all are in compliance with current and July 1, 2020 teacher education requirements.

* **School Readiness and Quality Enhancement FY20 RFP**
  1. Review of FY20 Grant timelines. The April 26th feedback meeting with reviewers needs to be changed due to conflict with State-wide conference.
  2. QE funding priorities: recommendations from QE workgroup

Wording changes were discussed for item #3 (about parent engangement): workshops/consultations can be a time limited series or run for full year; target under resourced communities; help programs develop ways to include parents in the DOTS-as required in the assessment tool.

Dr. Kimber would like to see the BOE play a larger role in supporting all preschools in behavior consultation and workshops. Mary Derwin said NHPS workshops will be open to community providers.

The QE FRP’s will be reviewed by Mary Derwin, Ivelise Velazquez, Denise, representative SR providers and any interested council members.

Council vote to accept QE priorities as amended-passed

1. **Co-Chair Updates**

* **Council membership appointments**

List of Mayoral appointments were shared. Carmelita Valencia Daye noted that Susan Logston while initially asked to stay on the council, was not reappointed. Dr. Killins Stewart explained the Mayor did not appoint everyone on the list. It was a list of over 45 names and Council by-laws say no more than 35 shall be on the Council. The Mayor was not happy that the co-chairs came with a list and she wasn’t able to make her own appointments.

* **Council Committees**

Co-chairs asked that any Council member wishing to chair a committee contact them

* **Council orientation**:

ALL Council members, new and continuing should be present for the Council orientation. The orientation will a part of the April Council meeting.

1. **Recap of Citywide School Choice Expo-**

Randi discussed the Saturday Expo. Many council members and School Readiness providers attended and offered families information. Many families filled out the contact cards provided so we can touch base with them after the lottery. Still have a lot of work to do to help families understand all the options. Prek Common App might help that.

1. **Building Equity: The Voices of Families in Our Work**

Feedback from parents-parents who attended the session were all in a NHPS or SR program or both. Discussion of how schools are managing challenging behavior was a big topic. **NEED MORE INFO FROM RANDI HERE**. Wellington Mackey has compiled some info from IRIS clients that he will share with Randi. Sherri asked that in addition to this info, maybe we can talk with IRIS families using our focus questions.

**NEXT STEPS**: Discussion of home visiting programs and their work with families. Sadie Witherspoon with work with Elizabeth Teller and Michele Baker to create a presentation on home visiting programs in our communities for a future Council meeting.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**APRIL 3, from 3-5pm**

**United Way of Greater New Haven**