*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families*

*and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**Notes**

**Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

1. Welcome and Announcements - Jennifer Heath announced that Sandy Malmquist has resigned as Co-chair of the Quality Committee. The responsibilities of the co-chair include attending the monthly committee meetings and also attending the Operations Committee. Tina Mannarino is the current co chair and needs a partner.
2. An opening activity was introduced to continue the opportunity for NHECC members to get to know one another as individuals.
3. Updates
* Budget – Jennifer reviewed the document that was distributed and noted that budgets have been submitted to the city of New Haven and the Graustein Memorial Foundation. She also reported that the Governor’s rescissions are reflected; Discovery lost about $1000 and the Dual Language Pilot Project was cut $1172.
* Director – A job description was developed and the position has been posted. Please circulate the posting to your networks.
* City Transformation Plan – Eliza Halsey reported that the work groups came together recently. The work of the NHECC is driving the Early Childhood plank. The city is submitting a second application to the federal government that will be focused a neighborhood but the work will remain citywide.
1. September meeting notes- Janet Alfano made a motion to approve the notes; Elisabeth Teller seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Involving Parents Ad hoc Committee Report – Kia Levey, committee chair, reviewed the committee’s charge to take a thoughtful look at how to include parents as authentic and contributing members of the Council, including how to make the culture supportive and comfortable. The committee proposed a definition of a parent for this purpose, as well as a job description (draft circulated) for all Council Members. The committee recommends the parent role on Council be treated as other roles that members hold as described in the document about Council membership that was adopted in May 2015. Tirzah Kemp noted that the committee also recommends stipends for Council members that do not attend meetings (for both Council meetings and Committees) as part of their job duties. The committee further recommends that we recruit 2 to 3 parents, which is equal to the number of members we currently that fill other roles. Liz Hammond and Tirzah, volunteer to chair the recruiting efforts, but would like to have two or three others working with them. They estimate that they will have parents’ names ready to submit to the Mayor in January 2016.

There was discussion about the definition of a parent as a Council member, the job description, stipends and the number of parents that should sit on the Council. The committee will come back to the November NHECC with more specific recommendations for vote.

1. Update from PreK Enrollment & Access Committee – Eliza reviewed the strategies that the committee is working on in the short term: the brochure that Tina (and Denise) worked on that provides information about early child care in New Haven and the a common application for PreK. The larger goal is universal Prek. The committee welcomes others to join.

Jennifer noted that we have some data on why children did not attend PreK that was collected by a survey done at the Kindergarten orientation meetings at the beginning of the school year.

1. SR Report – Sarah Fabish reviewed the document that was emailed to NHECC members about the Non resident policy for School Readiness. During the discussion Dr. Okafor expressed a concern for children in the city having access to quality childcare programs, and not wanting to give seats to children that don’t live in New Haven. Sarah stressed that the policy only applies to full day/full year spaces, and is for the trial period of one year. Kia Levey made a motion to adopt the policy as presented and Marcy Guddemi seconded the motion. Dr. Okafor asked that the words “and make necessary changes” be added to the last sentence of the policy. This amendment to the policy was added to the motion and carried unanimously.