

Griswold School Readiness Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:00 via ZOOM

Present: Jennifer Pepin (GES PreK educator), Jennifer Anderson Norman (parent), Sarah McEwan (GES School Nurse), Mike Morton (Rec Dept/Selectman Designee), Danielle Cutrone (parent), Debbi Poirier (TVCCA Little Learners), Joe Bordeaux (Griswold Early Education Program), Sean McKenna (Griswold Superintendent of Schools), Jessica Simoneau (GES School Counselor), Jaselyn Caviness (co-chair/parent), Deb Martin (Griswold Dir. of Finance), Rebecca Jesseaume (Dir. Slater Library), Julie Hall (Kidsteps), Heather Lunny (The Little Log School House), Cheryl LaMothe (Griswold School Readiness Liaison)

Jennifer Anderson Norman Presentation: Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy/Reggio Emilia

- Focus on child centered practices
- Family, community involvement and ongoing relationships
- 100 Languages of Children
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Program Updates

Griswold Early Education Program: Upcoming events: PreK Screening Day, NAEYC WOYC (Week of the Young Child) April 1 – 7 with special events planned; Kindness In the Classroom ongoing with special Scribble Stones story focusing on inclusion, rock painting event; celebrated Read Across America and Dr Seuss, with literacy focus on rhyming. Math study including Robots Rule unit. Additional preschoolers recently enrolled.

TVCCA Little Learners Griswold: Educators recently completed CLASS training, ongoing literacy events; planning for WOYC special activities; TVCCA in leadership role for rally to support awareness of Early Childhood Education and the challenges faced by programs.

The Little Log School House: recently held picture day for children; dinosaur unit of study; recycling project; several staff training events ongoing; planning teacher appreciation events.

SR Readiness Monitoring: Documents will be uploaded to Google folder for review.

Dr Alicia Farrell Presentation: "How to Raise Children Who Can Navigate their Stress and Anxiety with Grit and Resilience" tonight at Griswold Middle School/6:00 P.M. and open to all.

<https://www.griswold.k12.ct.us/>

School Readiness Council Meetings: Discussed schedule/day/time for 2023/24 council meetings. It was suggested to piggy back SR Council meetings to GES PTO meetings, currently held at 6:00 p.m. The council has tried a variety of times to improve membership, surveyed community and programs/families. It was decided to try the 9:00 a.m. time frame for this year. Council members will reflect on days/times that will best serve the community at large and support participation and consider alternative days/times when meeting in April.

FY 24 Grant: QE guidance and SR Council Accountability and Structure were shared with council, with opportunities for questions, discussion, with no questions asked. Requested that April 19th SR Council Meeting be moved to April 26 in order to give sub-grantees additional time to complete grant documents/budget workbooks based on allocation amounts that will be shared during the first week of April. The Council approved the date change. RE: Quality Enhancement Funds – Griswold is awarded \$3881 for the district. Currently, those funds are shared by programs according to number of classrooms. They can also be used for shared enhancement to programs (shared training, community/family event, etc.).

Additional SR Slots: Griswold Early Education Program has requested an additional 4 PT/PY (part day/part year) School Readiness slots. The Little Log School House requested an additional 5 FDFY (full day/full year) slots, from OEC School Readiness for FY 24. If approved, those additional slots and allocations will be included in updated allocations to programs.

Community Updates:

- **Slater Library:** “Baby and Me” activities, Toddler story time Tuesdays at 10:30, storytime every 2nd Saturday. They are planning an Open House Art Show, starting on 4/15. Summer planning underway, with requested input from SR Programs re: learning goals for children to be incorporated into activities, “All Together Now” theme. <https://sites.google.com/site/slaterlibrary/>
- **Recreation Department:** several town-wide events coming up, planning for summer programs. <https://griswoldyfs.com/>
- **Kidsteps:** nationwide shortage of therapists impacting program, still in the process of hiring additional staff. <https://sarah-inc.org/services/kidsteps-birth-to-three-early-intervention/>

Next SR Council Meeting (note new date) April 26 at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl LaMothe, Griswold School Readiness Liaison