

**Valley Early Childhood Regional Council Meeting**

**April 28, 2022**

**Zoom 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

***To support the Valley Community as a leader in early childhood development and family engagement in an effort to ensure all Valley children are prepared socially and developmentally to thrive in school***

In attendance:

Council Co-Chair - Carissa Caserta, Naugatuck Valley Health District

Council Co-Chair - Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School Seymour

Diana Brancato, Ansonia School Readiness Coordinator

Ayanna Williams, Derby, Seymour, Shelton School Readiness Liaison

Mayor David Cassetti, Ansonia

Dr. Joseph DiBacco, Superintendent Ansonia Public Schools

Dee Kopec, Mayor’s Office, Shelton

Lauren Reid, Assistant Principal Bungay School Seymour

Laura Harris, Derby Board of Education

Cathy Pomeroy, Bradley School Derby

Keely Edwards, Irving School Derby

Linda Flach, Early Childhood Consultation Partnership

Debra Hansen, Valley Regional Adult Education

Lynn Rider, Child First, Parent Child Resource Center/BHcare

BJ Hornby, Shelton

Alison Conway, Little Raiders Derby

Krissy Warrenger, Derby Neck Library

Rebecca Sotolotto, Seymour Public Library

Cherice Hernandez, parent

Stephanie Salvo, Assistant Director of Special Education Ansonia

Michele Holovach, Early Head Start, TEAM Inc.

**Welcome/Introductions – Carissa Caserta/Mary Sue Feige**

Carissa called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**February 10, 2022 Minutes**

Table Minutes from February 10, 2022 until the next meeting in May.

**Regional Budget** **– Carissa Caserta/Mary Sue Feige**

Carissa reported that the budget, $8,748.98, has remained the same from the February 10, 2022 meeting.

**Naugatuck Valley Health Department – Carissa Caserta**

Carissa informed the Council that COVID cases have been rising since the lower numbers reported at the February 2022 meeting but not as high as they were since beginning of the pandemic. NVHD is offering child vaccines at the YMCA event on 4/30/2022. Mayor Cassetti requested the numbers of Ansonia children vaccinated and Carissa will send him the report that came out on 4/25. There are multiple activities scheduled at the senior centers in the Valley such as a diabetes awareness presentation at the Derby Senior Center.

**School Readiness RFP Attestations – Diana Brancato/Ayanna Williams**

Attestations such as the VECRC Handbook, Registry, etc.; the Grant Submission Information pertaining to Obligations of Grantees and Subgrantees, Management and Content of the program and Grant Consultation Role of the State and the Grant Process which includes which includes Information & Assistance, Review of Application and Grant Awards, Reservations & Restrictions and Freedom of Information Act were all discussed. The nine School Readiness proposals that were submitted were from all continuing programs. No new applications were applied for.

**VECRC Parent Membership Outreach**

The Council membership was discussed. The Council must contain 25% of the total Council membership to be represented by a past, present or future School Readiness child. Marketing is underway to recruit more parents by highlighting the benefits of being a member of the Valley Early Childhood Regional Council through advertising and the [www.vecrc.org](http://www.vecrc.org) website.

**RFP Scoring Committee Discussion**

Michele introduced the scoring committee of Mary Sue Feige, Carissa Caserta, BJ Hornby and Michele. The process was different this year as each committee member was responsible for scoring the grants that were assigned to them since there were 9 in total to be reviewed. The process of scoring the 9School Readiness grants using the OEC Local School Readiness Application Scoring Packets. The voting then began on the following grants located in the four communities of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton and led to the following voting:

**Ansonia School Readiness**

Proposed Slots and funding allocations

* Ansonia Public Schools Pre-K, located at 59 Finney Street, is requesting
  + 10 part-day/part year slots at $45,000 and
  + 50 full day slots at $446,200
    - for a total of $491,200.
* Julia Day Nursery, located at 76 Central Street, is requesting 23 full day slots at $205,252.
* Lower Naugatuck Valley Early Childhood Education/TEAM, located at 80 Howard Avenue, is requesting 18 full day slots at $160,632.
* Valley YMCA, located at 32 Howard Ave, is requesting 22 full day slots at $196,328.

A total of 123 slots for $1,053,412.

The administrative amount is $52,671.

Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation is $1,106,083.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 10 part day/part year at $45,000 and 50 full day at $446,200 (total of $491,200) at Ansonia Public Schools Pre-K at 59 Finney Street. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 23 full day slots at $205,252 at Julia Day Nursery at 76 Central Ave. It was seconded by Dee Kopec. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 18 full day slots at $160,632 at Lower Naugatuck Valley Early Childhood Education/TEAM at 80 Howard Avenue. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 22 full day slots at $196,328 at Valley YMCA at 32 Howard Ave. It was seconded by Laura Harris. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept a total of 123 slots at $1,053,412. It was seconded by Dee Kopec. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept $52,671 for administrative costs. It was seconded by Debra Hanson. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation for $1,106,083. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

Quality Enhancement: Quality Enhancement Grant amount of $6,447 to be used towards professional development, coaching and consultation for early childhood educators in Ansonia. Specific focus of professional development will be on diversity, outdoor play, Student Research Based Intervention (SRBI) and mindfulness.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Quality Enhancement Grant to be used towards Student Research Based Intervention (SRBI) PD provided by CES, Mindfulness in the Classroom PD provided by Kidding Around Yoga by Sherri, Outdoor Play and Diversity PD provided by Eastconn. It was seconded by Cathy Pomeroy. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Shelton School Readiness**

Proposed Slots and funding allocations

* TEAM Shelton School Readiness – Grove Street 10 full day slots at $89,240. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Shelton Public Schools - Mohegan is requesting 45 -part day slots at $202,500.

A total of 55 slots for $291,740. \*The preliminary allocated amount is -$294,872

The administrative amount is $14,725.

Total: $306,465.

Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation is $309,616.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 10 full day slots at $89,240 at TEAM Shelton School Readiness – Grove Street at 54 Grove Street. It was seconded by BJ Hornby. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 45 part- day slots at $202,500 at Shelton Public Schools Mohegan- 47 Mohegan Road. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept a total of 55 slots at $291,740. It was seconded by Cathy Pomeroy. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept $14,725 for administrative costs. It was seconded by Dee Kopec. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation for $309,616. It was seconded by Laura Harris. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

Quality Enhancement: Quality Enhancement Grant amount of $3881 to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching NAEYC accreditation process.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Quality Enhancement Grant to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on Diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching and NAEYC accreditation process. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Derby School Readiness**

Proposed Slots and funding allocations

* YMCA is requesting 7 full day slots at $62,468.
* Kids Club is requesting 6 full day slots at $53,544
* Derby has a total of 13 full day slots at $116,012

The administrative amount is $5,801.

Total: 121,813.

Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation is $121,813.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 7 full day slots at $62,468 at the Valley YMCA Childcare Center at 80 Howard Ave. It was seconded by Linda Flach. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 6 full day slots at $53, 544 at Kids Club at 91 W Church St. Seymour. It was seconded by Laura Harris. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept $5,801 for administrative costs. It was seconded by Cathy Pomeroy. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation for $121,813. It was seconded by Linda Flack. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

Quality Enhancement: Quality Enhancement Grant amount of $3881 to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching NAEYC accreditation process.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Quality Enhancement Grant to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on Diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching and NAEYC accreditation process. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Seymour School Readiness**

Proposed Slots and funding allocations

* Kids Club is requesting 13 full day slots at $116,012.

The administrative amount is $5,801.

Total: 121,813.

Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation is $121,813.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept 13 full day slots at $116,012 at Kids Club at 91W Church St. It was seconded by Laura Harris. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept $5,801 for administrative costs. It was seconded by Keely Edwards. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Community preliminary FY 2023 School Readiness grant allocation for $121,813. It was seconded by Cathy Pomeroy. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

Quality Enhancement: Quality Enhancement Grant amount of $3881 to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching NAEYC accreditation process.

* Mary Sue Feige made a motion to accept the Quality Enhancement Grant to be used towards CES Professional Development Services to provide professional development, coaching, consultation and technical assistance to address individual program needs. A specific focus on Diversity, Trauma-Informed Practices, Effective Supervision Intentional Teaching and NAEYC accreditation process. It was seconded by Dee Kopec. All were in favor, no oppositions, no abstentions and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Next VECRC Meeting: May 26, 2022**

**9:00-11:00 via Zoom**