

Early Childhood Committee  
NLPS BoE

NOTES ON MEETING OF COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, July 1, 2008

Conference Room, Central Office

1. In attendance: Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez, Mr. Pearce, Kathryn Patterson, NLPS Early Childhood Specialist and Marian Brown, Preschool Liaison Educational Evaluator.
2. Mission Statement: A draft Mission Statement was reviewed and added to. Mr. Pearce agreed that he would put down the suggested changes and send the document to Ms Patterson and Ms. Brown for them to work on and amend. (Mr. Pearce's amended Mission Statement is attached).

Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez and Mr. Pearce agreed that the Mission Statement should go to the full BoE at its August Meeting.

3. Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez and Mr. Pearce agreed that at least two matters should be brought to the BoE as policy level concerns.

\*How can NLPS measure consistently the results of school readiness provided by pre-school programs operating in accordance with State Standards?

\*What can the NLPS do to reduce the percent of children starting school without pre-school preparation? At present 25% of children come to formal schooling without a pre-school experience (before the start of the Friendship School, the % was 50%)

4. Discussion.
  - Ms. Patterson and Ms Brown presented an excellently informative notebook on Early Childhood Education for the use

of the Committee showing the significance of early childhood education for later learning and life results, the overall extent of pre-k programming in New London, the pre-k initiatives within the NLPS and information on the Friendship School (with the Waterford District). They reviewed “the whole picture” of school readiness efforts in New London, public, non-profit and private [including private child care—licensed homes (by the State D.of H.) and what are called “kith and kin” homes (generally relatives and friends)].

- \* Ms. Patterson and Ms. Brown emphasized item 6 on the agenda for this meeting, “Community Partnerships” to point out that The “Children First New London” organization has been bringing together most of the school readiness entities serving children up to age 8 for more than ten years in order to share information and coordinate efforts, etc.
- They also provided Committee members with a copy of the State Curricular Goals and Benchmarks entitled “The Connecticut Framework”. These are standards that apply to all school readiness programs as to the skills that children need for school. However, there is a need for accurate quality measurement techniques to see if these skills are being instilled in children participating in school readiness programs.

5. New Meeting: The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, August 27 at 5:30 P.M. Beside Ms. Patterson and Ms. Brown, the Committee decided to invite Ms. Burdick and Dr. Wuyke

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Notes by J. Pearce, Chair  
7/2/08