

MINUTES

Marshfield Early Childhood Council

Date: January 17, 2018

Place: Recreation Center, Ferry Street

Time: 6:15 pm

Present:

Donna Admirand, Deb Worsh, Marie Miller, Dottie McDevitt, Joanne Swirbalus and Lynn Neacy.

Motion to call to order by Deb Worsh.

Minutes of the 10/11/2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Early Childhood Fair:

Discussed the attendance this year, as well as the past few years. It was decided that the Fair be discontinued. Several factors contributing towards low attendance are that people are finding the information they need on the internet and families are busy with many activities.

Talked about future ideas for an event and it was decided to host a Teddy Bear Picnic. Event to include a story walk, bring your own bagged lunch, music (Possibly Nan Butterfield, music teacher at DWS) and a cake. Donna to call a bakery in Plymouth to see if we could get a gluten free cake. Would include ages 0-5. Include "bring your favorite stuff" on the flyer. Deb Worsh to ask Craig about having the event at the Boy's and Girl's Club and will call Monica the children's librarian at Ventress Library to see if she wants to participate. Donna to ask Nan Butterfield about providing some musical entertainment.

Decided on March 24th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Have a box of books/crayons for busy time and for settling in.

11:10 AM – Welcome

11:15 – 11:45 AM - Story Walk

11:45 – 12:15 PM – Eat lunch

12:15 – 12:45 PM – Music

Wind down and depart by 1:00 PM

Discussed how to advertise the event. Post on existing Playgroup Facebook Page (Deb) and on the Marshfield Forum Facebook Page. Deb to invite playgroup families. Lynn to invite all existing preschool families via email.

Planning for Community Assessment 2017-2018:

Deb Worsh discussed the need to craft one question for the Assessment. Some suggestions for gathering the information for the needs assessment were The Marshfield Forum Facebook page, the Kindergarten Teachers (to solicit who they might currently have in their class), Council members, and current preschool and playgroup families. Discussed what the barriers exist that may prevent enrolling a child in our preschool? Lack of transportation and financial were two reasons.

Joanne Swirbalus provided a copy of the 2018-2020 Community Assessment Report and Strategic Plan which can also be found on the SSCAC website.

Program Updates:

Dottie McDevitt discussed a training for parents program that she is trained to administer called "Keeping Kids Safe". The program provides parents with the skills and tools to keep children safe from sexual abuse without scaring them. The program is free to parents and provides free child care and free food (pizza and salad). The training is approximately an hour and a half. One session could have approximately 20-25 attendees. Flyer attached.

Upcoming Meetings/Dates:

March 7, 2018 – 4:15 PM

April 22, 2018 – 6:15 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.