

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

INITIAL MEETING

May 7, 2024 MINUTES

The Virtual-Initial Meeting of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Advisory Council was held on May 7, 2024 via Google Meet, the meeting commenced at 3:47pm.

Dr. Danielle Hamblin, introduced the Preschool Team and provided a brief overview of the Preschool Program, and its expansion.

The attendees were welcomed and provided with an overview of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

**Feedback on Communication**

Mrs. Roxanne Doran, stated that she has not heard any feedback, but will be sure to share if she does.

Mrs. Julie Bell, invited the Preschool Leadership Team to take advantage of the resources available from the Flemington-Raritan Education Foundation.

Mrs. Samantha Caffyn, asked what it will look like for second year preschool students, and if they will be required to attend a new location. The council's facilitators noted the request and indicated they would be communicating with parents as soon as they had more concrete registration information related to school year 24/25 and student placement.

Mr. Ryan Birkenstock, shared that the Board of Education is working hard on transportation for the 24-25 school year. Mr. Birkenstock also advised the Preschool Leadership Team to update the website, as it shows some information with January dates, in the FAQ's portion.

**Community Needs Assessment**

Will be sent via email to 2024-2025 registered preschool students, and it will be sent annually. The committee reviewed the components of the assessment and its purpose including planning parent workshops/events.

**Tools of the Mind Curriculum**

Mrs. Nicole Bateman provided the council with a glimpse of the life of a preschooler.

### **Administrative Updates**

Ms. Cahill provided updates on the Preschool Family Handbook, Curriculum, and Assessment Tools.

### **Preschool Unification**

The new Preschool Mascot, Pebbles, will be making an appearance on Spirit Days of May 9th and May 30th. Dr. Hamblin expressed gratitude to the PTO for the gift of the mascot costume to the Preschool Program.

### **Penguin Post**

Mrs. Allison Goldschlag Reinking, advised that the theme for the summer edition of the Penguin Post should focus on what parents can do to support their children for the entrance into kindergarten.

### **Transportation Update**

Mr. Birkenstock shared that as a district, the biggest piece to come to fruition will be the ability to house our preschool universe, and asked the members to keep their eyes and ears open for new real estate opportunities, and to relay the information back.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be in the fall. For the fall meeting the topics will be leadership roles and bylaws, and ECAC committees.

### **New Business**

Before we left the meeting Dr. Erin Harmeyer requested that we share the volunteer opportunity to be the Preschool Penguin Mascot in the fundraising Color-Run event, taking place on May 19th, Dr. Harmeyer is one of the key leaders of this event.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

## Attendees

First name	Last name	Title and Organization
Bateman	Nicole	Preschool Instruction Coach (PIC) and Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS)
Bell	Julie	Philanthropic Community Organization, Flemington-Raritan Education Foundation
Birkenstock	Ryan	Parent, Board of Education Member
Caffyn	Samantha	Parent
Cahill	Amanda	Early Childhood Supervisor
Case	Robyn	Preschool Teacher
Catalano	Sabina	Administration, First Friends Child Development Center
Colavito	Karen	Director, Precious Gems Academy
Curtis/Fonseca	Marisa	Speech/Language Pathologist
DeAnglis	Laurie	Preschool Teacher
Doran	Roxanne	Education Manager, Norwescap Early Head Start and Head Start
Goldschlag Reinking	Allison	Early Childhood Specialist Supervisor, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Gonzalez	Raquel	Assistant Director, Precious Gems Academy
Hamblin	Dr. Danielle	Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education
Harmeyer	Dr. Erin	Parent, Assistant Research Professor National Institute for Early Education Research-Rutgers
Javier-Mannino	Katherine	Community-Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS) and Administrative Assistant for Preschool
Kovacs	Eva	NJ Preschool Inclusive Education Project District Liaison
Madden	Dr. Lauren	Professor of Elementary Science Education Elementary and Early Childhood Education, TCNJ
Moncada	Viviana	School Counselor, FAD
Norton	Dave	Parent, Flemington Business Owner
Skrocki	Sarah	Community Alignment Specialist Supervisor, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Weckesser	Amy	Director, First Friends Child Development Center