

**GECC Chairperson Report
by Janet Ford, Chairperson
December, 2007**

1. In preparation for a meeting with The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10- 15 individuals, representing local leadership and some Granby organizations, met to arrive at a representation of what makes Granby unique and to help identify Granby's core value. This coordinated representation will be presented to The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving when we meet again in late December. I represented the GECC at this meeting, and a summary of the GECC work and objectives was submitted.

2. 3rd Preschool Community Workshop Report –

Seminar Topic: Documentation and Observation – Program and Classroom Level

Date: November 27, 2007

Unfortunately, the November Preschool Workshop had a smaller attendance than the first two workshops had – 11 individuals attended: 5 home childcare providers, 3 parents and 3 educators from Kearns Primary School

Changing the initial date of the workshop from election day to November 27th presented a conflict for several regular GECC members, and there was agreement among the membership not to schedule the November workshop on the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving holiday. All handouts given by the consultants are available through the Coordinator, if requested.

Summary of all Evaluation Comments Received From Participants

During this workshop session, I learned:

- to use facts instead of interpretations
- to stay away from using Red Flag words
- to stick with the facts
- how to observe – without bias
- I love the preschool curriculum framework. The workshop was exactly what I was looking for. Thanks!
- that observation needs to be more factual and that the “fluff” needs to be left out
- how subjective words can easily slip into an “objective” observation

The most useful part of today’s training session for me was:

- to learn to be objective
- using sticky notes to record observations and to stick them on the recording sheet
- all of it!
- teaching ideas to use with my children
- the observations themselves
- fact/interpretation activity
- learning what words are loaded – fact vs. interpretation

Here is what I plan to do in my classroom as a result of today's training:

- I plan to using sticky notes to record observations and to stick them on the actual recording sheet.
- watch children with more objectiveness
- observe and use recording forms
- write facts – use less interpretation
- practice this approach to observing kids
- write observations using more concrete facts which cannot be misinterpreted
- try to instruct without students interpreting what I am (really) looking for

I still have questions or concerns about:

- relating with parents and avoiding stepping on toes when being objective

I would like to share with the trainer the following suggestions/comments:

- personally, a little more heat in the meeting room!
- thank you for this opportunity to learn
- I wish we could repeat the material from this particular workshop or duplicate part of it for those people who had a conflict that night, since observations and reporting are key elements of any good preschool program (and primary school program as well for that matter).

For the January workshop entitled “**Communicating Goals With Families**”, the consultants would like participants to bring the communications materials they use with families of children in their care and/or that they teach. In addition, for those that attended the November workshop, Consultant Sandra Fowler has asked that you continue to practice being objective, factual and accurate in your observations and assessments of children until we convene again in January.

The January workshop will be specifically targeted to benefit parents, and GECC members are asked to make sure that parents are aware of the date of this workshop – January 8th. A special flyer will be developed and sent to the GECC membership with the request that it be posted and placed into backpacks for distribution to parents.

3. A community survey has been distributed through the public schools K-8, through home childcare providers, all the preschool centers and libraries, plus placed in the Granby Drummer. Once completed surveys are all returned, they will be collated and organized and a report will be made available which will summarize the survey results. Survey data results will allow the GECC to gain insight into parent concerns, needs and desires, and then adapt goals and objectives to meet parent/child/family/community needs.
4. For your information, there will be public forums to discuss:

PUBLIC HEARING on FOOTBALL:

Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Snow date: December 11, 7:00 p.m.

Town of Granby Senior/Youth Center

District Priorities: At their regular meeting on October 17, 2007, The Granby Board of Education announced the appointment of Alan Addley to the position of Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2008.

With this appointment comes the opportunity for public input into the future direction of the district. A series of public forums led by consultant Jacqueline Roy will provide an opportunity for parents, students, teachers and other members of the community to discuss their visions and priorities for the future of our schools directly with Mr. Addley.

PUBLIC FORUMS on FUTURE of DISTRICT

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 6, 5:00 p.m.

**All public forum sessions will be held at the
Granby Memorial Middle School**