



GECC Meeting Minutes**June 2, 2008**

A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday June 2, 2008 in the Community Room of the Farmington Valley YMCA. In attendance were:

Janet Ford	GECC, Chairperson
John Kroninger	Parent Representative, member of the Communications Committee
Bonnie Quinlan	First Grade Teacher, Granville, MA
Celia Lofink PhD,	PhD., ECE
Amanda Lukingbeal	Parent Representative
Jenni Raabe	Parent Representative
Amy Rooney	Parent Representative
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator
Sheri Litchfield	GECC, Secretary

The June 2, 2008 meeting began at 6:34 in the Community Room of the YMCA. Janet Ford, Chairperson of GECC, welcomed Council members.

Janet asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the May 7, 2008 meeting. When no changes to the minutes were requested by the Council membership, Janet asked that the minutes be amended to include the previous meeting discussion regarding trying to minimize confusion and disorganization when member terms are scheduled to end for the GECC Executive Board. To simplify membership changes, it was suggested that the Council Chairperson's term conclude in January, 2009, and Committee Chairpersons' terms conclude in June, 2009. Further discussion regarding this will be explored in the near future. A motion was made by Bonnie Quinlan to accept the minutes with the requested changes, and was seconded by Amanda Lukingbeal. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Janet reported for Dot Muszynski, GECC Treasurer, that the GECC balance to date is \$42,142.18. Dot is still awaiting a bill from the consultants for payment for the Professional Development Workshops which concluded on May 8th.

The schedule for the 08-09 Council meetings was distributed to the GECC membership. The Annual Meeting was deferred to a later date and will be readdressed at the July meeting.

The Ad-hoc By-laws Committee will be asked to reconvene to update the Council's broader scope. An earlier name change from the Granby School Readiness Council to the Granby Early Childhood Council, as well as Roles and Responsibilities, need to be addressed by the Ad-hoc By-laws Committee.

Janet announced that the GECC has been invited by the Granby Chamber of Commerce to participate in “Celebrate Granby” on Saturday, June 14th at Salmon Brook Park. The Chamber will provide space for the Council and several other non-profit organizations in town. The Council will have a table of brochures and information to share with the community on early childhood and school readiness issues, as well as activities throughout the day to entertain young children. Joan Rogers shared a schedule of events and children's activities that will be provided by various home-based childcare providers and center-based childcare providers. While children are engaged in the activities, there will be opportunity for Council members to discuss the work of the GECC with parents. The following GECC members volunteered to serve on a Celebrate Granby Planning Committee which will meet on Tuesday to plan for the details related to this community event: Janet Ford, John Kroninger, Amanda Lukingbeal and Sheri Litchfield. The GECC thanks the Chamber for the opportunity to participate in this event, and also thanks the parents and providers who will be in the park that day providing children's activities.

Joan spoke on behalf of Gary Ebersole who was unable to attend this evening, and is very involved in organizing a fund raising event for the GECC planned to take place in the fall which will be called, “Are You Smarter Than a Granby 2nd Grader.” Gary has been in contact with Maggie Percival of the “GranBee” who has offered her assistance to Gary and the GECC based upon her experience in planning for the GranBee for several years. The GECC is deeply appreciative to Maggie for the guidance that she can offer to the Council in the planning of this event. Gary is also establishing a committee of those interested in bringing this exciting family event to Granby. Joan has spoken with second teacher Debbie Payne who volunteered to serve on the Planning Committee. Please contact Gary or Joan if you are interested in serving on the Planning Committee for “Are You Smarter Than a Granby 2nd Grader.”

The GECC membership was asked to fill out a brainstorming questionnaire in an effort to determine why community members from various perspectives and backgrounds value the work of the GECC, and what motivates individuals to want to serve on the Council.

Joan shared that the GECC outreach and informational table on the Town Green during the Memorial Day Parade was a great success. All comments from the community regarding the Council and its work were positive, and many new contacts were made that day.

The Granby Drummer, the Hartford Courant and GCTV continue to share information about the GECC with the community. For this assistance, the Council is very grateful.

Janet announced that Parent representative Mary Myers has organized a visit to the East Windsor Family Resource Center (FRC) on Wednesday, June 4th. The following GECC members will participate in this field trip:

1. Janet Ford, GECC Chairperson
2. Dot Muszynski, Discovery Grant Collaborative Agent, and Child Development Director of the FV YMCA.
2. Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary, along with 10 month old granddaughter, Hailey.
3. Dot Muszynski, Discovery Grant Collaborative Agent and Child Development Director of the FV YMCA.

4. John Kroninger, GECC Parent Representative, GECC Webmaster and Public Awareness Committee Member, along with 4 year old Noah and 2 1/2 year old Tyler.
5. Jim Lofink, Executive Director, Holcomb Farm
6. Celia Lofink, PhD., Early Childhood
7. Mary Myers, GECC Parent Representative, Site Visit Coordinator
8. Joan Rogers, GECC and Discovery Grant Coordinator
9. Jimma Aikman, GECC Parent Representative, along with Marcos, age 4, and Brandon, age 21 months.
- 10.(Unconfirmed) Alan Addley, incoming Superintendent of Granby Public Schools.

The GECC members going on the field trip will have the opportunity to participate in the end of the year “Beach Party” event for the families that are served by the FRC, and experience a FRC firsthand. The East Windsor FRC Program Director and the School Principal, as well as several Parent Educators, will be available to share information and answer any questions the GECC has regarding establishing a FRC in Granby.

Joan Rogers will be having breakfast with Representative Ferrarri on Tuesday morning to discuss the work of the GECC, and how Representative Ferrari can continue to advocate at the state legislature on behalf of Granby, its schools and the work of the Granby Early Childhood Council.

There will be a retirement party for Henriette Camp on June 9th at the Granby Senior Center. Anyone wishing to attend is invited. Mrs. Camp will be deeply missed by the Council, and we all wish her the very best.

A Graustein Memorial workshop titled, “Setting a Community Agenda” will be offered in Hamden on Tuesday, June 10th from 9-2:30pm. This workshop will be attended by GECC Coordinator, Joan Rogers, and early educator and Simsbury BOE member, Lydia Tedone. If anyone else is also interested in attending, please contact Joan Rogers.

The next GECC meeting will be on Monday, July 7th at the YMCA. Kim Dessert, the new Kearns Primary School Principal, is expected to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary

Funded by the Discovery Grant from the Graustein Memorial Fund