



GECC Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2008

A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday March 3, 2008 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room.

In attendance were:

Nannie Brown, Valley Preschool

Laurelyn Keenan, Home childcare provider- Mountain Laurel Daycare

Laura Murach, Parent representative/ Small World Learning Center and Mountain Laurel

Gary Ebersole, Parent

John Kroninger, Parent

Jeannine Nash, Parent

Dot Muszynski, Farmington Valley YMCA

Lisa Reinhardt, Farmington Valley YMCA

Mia Porter, Consulting Teacher K-6, Math, Science, Technology

Mary Tabb, ECCP

Bonnie Quinlan, First Grade Teacher, Granville, MA

Cindy Guerreri, Graustein Memorial Fund Community Liaison

Janet Ford- GECC Chairperson

Joan Rogers - GECC Coordinator

Sheri Litchfield- GECC Secretary

The March 3, 2008 meeting began at 6:36 in the community room of the YMCA. Janet Ford, Chairperson of GECC, welcomed Council members and introduced two new volunteers to the meeting. Bonnie Quinlan is a Granby resident who teaches first grade in Granville, MA. Mary Tabb is from the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership, and has replaced Laura Fish who recently moved to California. The Council looks forward to working with both professionals as they share their experience and knowledge of young children with the membership.

Janet distributed an amended agenda for the evening which included two small group tasks instead of the four previously planned. Janet explained that a small group met outside the Council meeting and made sufficient progress on the brochure and Power Point presentation.

Janet asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the February 5, 2007 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Nannie Brown, and was seconded by Dot Muszynski. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Janet announced that the Executive Committee will meet on Friday, March 14th at the YMCA to realign the Action Plan and Budget to reflect the actual grant award of \$35,000, rather than the \$50,000 originally applied for.

Dot Muszynski, GECC Treasurer, shared the treasurer's report, identifying expenses and announced a March balance of \$8,327.66.

Janet Forde announced that a letter was sent to the Board of Education in February stating the GECC's request to have a member of the Council serve on the interview and search committee for a new primary school principal of Kearns School. Parent Mary Myers has agreed to represent the GECC on this search committee.

Janet gave an update on several grant applications. The **Granby Education Foundation (GEF)** responded to the original grant request by asking the Council to resubmit an application for a one time event. The GECC intends to request that the GEF support a four part workshop series using local professionals on the topics of: Developmental Growth and Milestones, Literacy, Numeracy and Special Needs. The workshops will be for parents and providers in support of ensuring kindergarten readiness for Granby's children, which was identified as the most important parental concern on the recent Parent Survey. In addition, Chairperson Ford will be meeting with the **Granby Community Fund (GCF)** on March 19th to request GECC consideration for a grant award. A representative from the GECC is needed to serve on the board of the GCF in order for the GECC to secure funding from them on an annual basis. If any member is interested, please let Janet know ASAP. Finally, an application will be submitted to the **Drummer Fund** for the purpose of seeking partnership with them in creating a Granby Preschool Scholarship. The GECC, in response to parental concerns regarding preschool affordability in Granby and kindergarten readiness, seeks to provide educational scholarships to families that would not otherwise be able to afford preschool for their child.

Gary Ebersole shared with the Council a tri-fold colored draft of the GECC brochure that was created by him and a group of GECC members that met this previous week. Establishing a P.O. was discussed, as well as the general look and feel of the brochure, and what the Council desires to accomplish by distributing this brochure. The “working” committee will once again convene to address additional suggestions in hopes of bringing this to closure. The Council would like to acknowledge Gary’s tireless effort and creativity in support of this project.

John Kroninger gave an update on the status of the GECC website design. Significant progress has taken place, and John continues to construct a website that will serve the Council and the needs of the community. The Council is deeply appreciative of John's dedication and hard work.

Lisa Reinhardt, of the Farmington Valley YMCA, spoke to the Council about membership and asked several poignant questions for the GECC members to ponder. In an attempt to begin a membership campaign, Lisa suggested that each member ask themselves two questions:

- 1.) From your perspective as either a home-based provider, center-based provider, parent, educator, etc., what attracted you to the GECC? And,
- 2.) What benefit do you hope to gain from your involvement with the GECC?

Lisa has offered to return to the Council at a future time to discuss the responses to these questions and how they will shape the GECC membership drive, and how the Council can attract new members who share the same vision or desire for Granby children and their families.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary