



A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday April 7, 2008 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

Janet Ford	GECC, Chairperson
Doreen Hoddinott	Small World Learning Center
Dot Muszynski	Farmington Valley YMCA
Nannie Brown	Valley Preschool
Lee Barba	Preschool teacher, Stepping Stones, Canton
Laurelyn Keenan	Home childcare provider – Mountain Laurel Daycare
Gary Ebersole	Parent
Mark Tyler	Parent
Kate Bogli	Parent
Madeline Christensen	Parent
Jimee Aikman	Parent
Sara Kleinman	Parent and Parent Educator, Hartford
Renee Klucznik	Parent Educator and Preschool Teacher, Town of East Granby
Karen Wilbur	Special Education Teacher, Simsbury Public Preschool
Mary Tabb	ECCP
Cindy Guerreri	Graustein Memorial Fund
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator
Sheri Litchfield	GECC, Secretary

The April 7, 2008 meeting began at 6:33 in the community room of the YMCA. Janet Ford, Chairperson of GECC, welcomed Council members and introduced Renee Klucznik from the Parent As Teachers Program.

Janet asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the March 3, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Doreen Hoddinott, and was seconded by Dot Muszynski. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Dot Muszynski, GECC Treasurer, reported an account balance of \$6,695. The GECC has not yet received an invoice for the second set of Professional Development Workshops.

Gary Ebersole shared a final proof of the GECC brochure. A suggestion was made that some of the photos in the brochure be changed to show more diversity, and/or special needs children. A motion was made by Dot Muszynski to accept the brochure with a few photo changes, and was seconded by Doreen Hoddinott. The GECC will begin by printing 150 color brochures to share with the community. Where the brochures will be distributed and located, community members

will be asked to offer their comments and feedback on the GECC brochure. The Council wants to know if the brochure effective in communicating who we are, what our goals are and in our need for community participation and support.

Copies of the Parent Survey were distributed to Council Members. Members are encouraged to read through the information that was collected. The survey is available on the American Towns website and will also be posted on the GECC website.

Janet Ford shared with the Council copies of the Chairperson Report which included:

-Discovery's Capacity Building program is offering the second opportunity to attend The Facilitative Leadership Training which will be held on April 16-18, 2008 from 8:30am- 5:00pm each day at the Farmington Homewood Suites in Farmington.

-The April Professional Development Workshop titled, "Literacy Environment Tools" was a field trip to the Model Lab School at St. Joseph's College. The workshop was attended by eighteen individuals representing six different communities. The final Preschool Workshop for the current school year will be held on May 6, 2008 at the YMCA beginning at 6:00 pm with a light dinner. The topic for the evening is "Goals for Practice for 08'-09 and Debrief. The GECC thanks Gary Ebersole for his work on developing the monthly Certificates of Attendance which will be distributed in April and in May.

-The GECC will host a six part workshop series for parents and childcare providers during the 08'-09' school year entitled "*Key issues facing parents of the young learners in the 21st century.*" Deborah Zipkin, Director, The Family Resource Center at Charter Oak Academy, West Hartford, CT will be the presenter.

-The GECC is awaiting word from Holcomb Farm and South Church regarding our request to use available space for the purpose of establishing a Family Resource Center.

-Five GECC members met with the Director of Social Services, Kerry Kielbasa, and with Ingrid Helander of the Youth Services Bureau to discuss a Family Resource Center and the Parents As Teachers Program.

The GECC guest speaker, Renee Klucznik of the Parents As Teachers(PAT) Program, shared with the Council the PAT short video titled, "Born to Learn." Renee explained how she became involved with the Parents As Teachers Program in East Granby, what it has meant to their community and what it has saved East Granby in terms of costs related to special services.

What is the Born to Learn model?

The Parents as Teachers Born to Learn model consists of four service delivery components. While many programs adapt individual model components based on funding, all programs need to provide the four components of the Parents as Teachers *Born to Learn* model.

1. Personal visits - Personal visits (monthly, bi-weekly or weekly) are the primary service delivery component. During these visits, parent educators share age-appropriate child development information with parents, help parents learn to observe their child's development, address parenting concerns, and engage the family in



activities that provide meaningful parent/child interaction and support the child's development.

2. Group meetings - Parent group meetings provide opportunities to discuss information about parenting issues and child development. Parents learn from and support each other, observe their children with other children, and practice parenting skills.

3. Screening - Parent educators are required to conduct annual developmental, health, vision and hearing screening for early identification of potential developmental delays and/or health, vision and hearing problems. Additional training is necessary to administer these screenings. As an alternative, a program may have other trained personnel or agency(ies) conduct the screenings. Regular review of each child's developmental progress identifies strengths as well as areas of concern that may require referral for follow-up services.

4. Resource network - Parent educators help families identify and connect with needed resources and overcome barriers to accessing services. Programs take an active role in establishing ongoing collaborative relationships with community agencies and organizations that offer additional family services.

Some programs may already have one or more of these four components in place and attend the Institute to learn how to implement the Born to Learn model and deliver the accompanying curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary

