



GECC Meeting Minutes**May 7, 2008**

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

Janet Ford	GECC, Chairperson
Dot Muszynski	Farmington Valley YMCA
Nannie Brown	Valley Preschool
Laurelyn Keenan	Home childcare provider – Mountain Laurel Daycare
Gary Ebersole	Parent
John Kroninger	Parent
Sara Kleinman	Parent and Parent Educator, Hartford
Renee Klucznik	Parent Educator and Preschool Teacher, Town of East Granby
Cindy Guerrerri	Graustein Memorial Fund
Bonnie Quinlan	First Grade Teacher
Jodi Games	City of Hartford, early educator
Valorie Hollister	The Mothers' Connection
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator
Sheri Litchfield	GECC, Secretary

The May 5, 2008 meeting began at 6:36 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 April 7, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Nannie Brown, and was seconded by Dot Muszynski. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Dot Muszynski, GECC Treasurer, reported that GECC has received and deposited the first 2008 Incentive Grant check from the Graustein Memorial Fund, leaving an account balance of \$45,967. Dot is awaiting an outstanding bill for the monthly Professional Development Workshops that will end on May 8, 2008.

Janet Ford announced that the Granby Education Foundation has awarded the GECC a grant of \$990 to be used for providing workshops through the 08' - 09' school year for early childhood providers and educators in the community, along with parents, to assist providers and parents working to understand and improve the kindergarten readiness of their child(ren) and to empower parents as their child's first teacher. Three workshops will be offered beginning in the fall of 08' and running through May of 09' using local experts to offer information to participants in the following areas:

- a. Early Childhood Growth and Developmental Milestones/ Special Needs Education
- b. Literacy
- c. Numeracy

The GECC recently conducted a parent survey in which kindergarten readiness was rated as the most

important concern in parental responses to the survey. These workshops will respond to this concern by offering parents hands-on information while also connecting parents and providers to the local professionals that will continue to be available to assist them and their children, often even before their child enters the public school system. Invitations for parents to attend these workshops will go home through student backpacks at home-based and center-based childcare locations, plus through the primary school. The workshops will also be advertised in the local media as a way of alerting parents and providers to these learning opportunities which will speak to improving the kindergarten readiness of their child(ren).

The Council is very appreciative to GEF for allowing this opportunity for the GECC to bring these workshops to the Granby community.

Janet informed the Council that a change in the communications format of the GECC will take place. A GECC Newsletter will take the place of the monthly Chairperson Report. We invite all providers, educators and parents to submit photos for the newsletter from events and/or activities they are participating in with the children in their care.

According to the GECC By-laws, the Chairperson, Executive Board Members and Committee Chairpersons will serve for a period of two years. In an attempt to avoid a complete change of board members at one time, it has been suggested that the Council look to change Committee Chairpersons in January and the Executive Board in June. The by-laws committee will be asked to reconvene to address the change to the GECC By-laws.

Gary Ebersole shared with the Council 250 copies of the Granby Early Childhood Council Brochure. These brochures will be distributed to the community over the next several weeks through home providers, center-based childcare facilities, libraries, and a variety of professional office buildings and businesses.

John Kroninger announced that the GECC website is on line and can be accessed at www.GranbyECC.org. John shared with the Council the various web pages and the information that is provided for both parents as well as early care and education providers. John suggested that a Council member is needed to become a “contact person,” so that new information can continue to be updated and changed. Anyone that may know of any family or early childhood links to share on the website, please contact John or Joan.

Joan Rogers will set up a table on the Town Green for the Memorial Day Parade to distribute brochures and share information about the Council with the community.

Gary Ebersole discussed the possibility of organizing an event for GECC entitled, “Are you Smarter Than a Granby 2nd Grader?” A committee of 4-5 Council members are needed to begin planning this fund raiser that the Council would like to see take place in the Fall of 2008. Please let Gary or Joan know if you would like to help organize and plan for this exciting family activity event for the Granby community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary