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## GECC Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2008

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A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, October 6, 2008 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

In Attendance:

Janet Ford- GECC Chairperson  
Barbara Swanson- Creative Learning Preschool  
John Kroninger- Parent  
Gary Ebersole- Parent  
Linda Marshall- Special Resource Teacher, Kearns School  
Laura Murach - Parent  
Bonnie Quinlan- First Grade Teacher, Granville, MA  
Cindy Guerreri- Graustein Memorial Fund Community Liaison  
Joan Rogers- Discovery and GECC Coordinator  
Ann Pratt, Guest – CT Parent Power  
Sheri Litchfield- GECC Secretary

The October 6, 2008 meeting began at 6:36 pm in the community room of the YMCA. Janet welcomed Council members and asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Laura Murach and seconded by Gary Ebersole. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Janet shared the treasurer report with the Council in Dot's absence. The current balance is \$21,711.67.

Janet announced that due to increased work demands, Doreen Hoddinott has asked to be removed as the Communication Chairperson to the Council. John Kroninger has offered to step in to that position for the remaining period.

Janet shared that the Simsbury Bank and Trust has awarded the GECC a \$200 Grant. A picture of Janet receiving the check from Jocelyn Reeve will appear in the November issue of the Granby Drummer. The grant will go towards food and beverages for the upcoming Focus Groups.

Joan gave an update on the feasibility study for a Family Resource Center in Granby. On September 16<sup>th</sup> Paul Vivian met with an ad-hoc committee to discuss the best approach in seeking the information from the community. He agreed to return to Granby on October 8<sup>th</sup> to train the ad-hoc committee in facilitating and documenting Focus Groups around town. Daycares/preschools, churches, PTO, the libraries, and individual homes have volunteered to host Focus Groups in late October and into mid November. The Council wishes to thank Mary Myers for her work in creating a flyer that will be sent home in the children's backpacks at

Kearns School as well as through Daycare/Preschools in town, announcing times and dates of the Focus Groups. As always, more information can be found on the GECC website.

The GECC received an invitation to attend a planning meeting for the Granby 225th Year Anniversary in 2011 from the Town Recreation Department. The Council appreciates the opportunity to share in the celebration and looks forward to doing what we can for children in the community.

A Grant request is being made to the Granby Education Foundation asking for \$2,500.00 to cover the cost of printing the School Readiness Booklet.

GECC will also be applying for a grant from the Granby Community Fund for the Kindergarten Activity Sheet and crayons that GECC would like to share with local restaurants . The restaurants will use these place mats as a learning tool for the children and families who frequent their establishments.

The Parents As Teachers program is moving forward by collecting resume's and setting up 7 interviews for a potential hire. The training schedule set up by the Parents As Teachers Organization will be help from October 27-31. It was suggested that each person who attends an interview be asked to bring several references with them.

Bonnie Quinlan spoke about the School Readiness Booklet that she is nearing completion of. She is awaiting feedback from several key people and shared that more editing may still be needed. Bonnie asked the Council members to look over the draft and make any suggestions to her by the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Her goal is have the booklet printed and ready for the preschools to use as a tool to engage parents to help their children with school readiness. Gary has once again offered to help with design and layout of the booklet cover. Council members made suggestions of using local photo's on the cover that are easily recognized by families in town. Suggestions such as; Kearns School, Salmon Brook Park, Holcomb Farm, Grocery Stores, Granby Oak, etc. were made.

Janet introduced a guest speaker, Ann Pratt from CT Parent Power. Ann shared with the group information on leadership training and community organizing that can take place in Granby for those that are interested.

The next GECC meeting will be held on Monday evening, November 3rd, at the YMCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary