



A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, November 3, 2008 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. The meeting began at 6:30 pm with Chairperson Janet Ford welcoming Council members and asking if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the October 6, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes, and was seconded by Gary Ebersole. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report was tabled because of Dot Muszynski's absence.

Joan Rogers gave a recap of Annual Discovery "Stone Soup" Conference. The key points that were made at the conference were:

- The 53 Connecticut Discovery communities need to link their work to what is happening in our country....a strong country must support its children. A strong country is only as strong as its children. Americans of all ages are prepared to invest in and support our children. By making a commitment to provide our children with a sturdy foundation, we can give them a greater chance of succeeding in life, and that helps ALL of us, not JUST parents.
- Research shows that the #1 item that Americans are willing to spend dollars on are programs for early childhood. Moreover, Americans want strong leaders who will fight for what they want most....success for our children. Americans feel a collective "responsibility" to leave the world a better place for our children.
- The Discovery Initiative can be compared to a statement made many years ago by Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that that a small group of dedicated and committed individuals can bring about change.....indeed, that's usually what has."

Janet Ford gave an update on the feasibility study for a Family Resource Center in Granby and on the Parents as Teachers Program. Twelve different focus group discussions are scheduled to take place throughout the Granby community between the dates of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the GECC will place the FRC Survey in the December edition of the Drummer, and will also put the survey on line to afford more community input on this topic.

It is the intent of the GECC to establish a Parents as Teachers (PAT) Pilot Program in support of parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher. The PAT program will take the lead in programs run through a FRC and in the materials used. Granby had full intention of beginning a pilot PAT Program this fall, but since Granby's 08' dollars received from the Memorial Fund were less than the Collaborative had requested last year, there were not enough dollars received to sustain the pilot program through the end of 09' as planned. Since the Collaborative feels very strongly about the benefit to the community of a PAT Program, the GECC is now looking for other sources of funding to match the rollover funds from the Memorial Fund for a pilot PAT Program. The GECC understands that the Discovery dollars are not intended for service delivery, and is working towards finding ways to sustain and support the operations of the GECC, and in particular, a PAT Program.

Joan Rogers reported on the 2008-09 Discovery Renewal Packet. It is expected that Granby will receive \$30,000 in additional Discovery funding for 09". Joan will ask the web master, John Kroninger, to put the 09' GECC Action Plan on the GECC website at his earliest opportunity.

The GECC wants to thank Sheri Litchfield and Mary Myers for representing the GECC in the Youth Service Bureau Youth and Family Fair event on October 28<sup>th</sup> . In addition, the GECC will continue to be involved in the planning to celebrate Granby's 225th Year Anniversary in 2011 with the Town Recreation Department and other local organizations. The Council appreciates the opportunity to share in the celebration and looks forward to doing what we can for children in the community.

Gary Ebersole shared cover designs that he has developed for the Granby School Readiness Booklet that Bonnie Quinlan authored this past summer. Several designs were eliminated from further consideration, and it was agreed that the designs that remain in consideration will be further discussed at a future meeting. The fact that the State of CT DOE just recently authored a document entitled " Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten" was discussed. Bonnie had completed her work on a document specific to Granby over the summer, and her booklet offers parents many more concrete examples as to how they can support school readiness in their child. It was agreed that the state's booklet is much more generic, and that Bonnie's booklet is another "tool" that parents can use to support their child.

The balance of the agenda was tabled due to time restraints. The next GECC meeting will be held on Monday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup> at the YMCA. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectively submitted,  
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary