



GECC Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2008

A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, December 1, 2008 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

In Attendance:

Robin Drago, PEP Facilitator, West Hartford Public Schools
Janet Ford, GECC Chairperson
Bonnie Quinlan, First Grade Teacher, Granville, MA
Kim Dessert, Principal, Kearns Primary School
Alan Addley, Superintendent of Granby Public Schools
Linda Marshall, Special Resource Teacher, Kearns School
Nannie Brown, Valley Preschool
Mary Myers, Parent
Sue Accetura, Parent
Evie Caranchini, Children's Librarian, Granby Public Library,
Lynn Stewart, Cossitt Library Librarian
Cindy Guerreri, Graustein Memorial Fund Community Liaison
Joan Rogers, Discovery and GECC Coordinator
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary

The December 1, 2008 meeting began at 6:35 pm in the community room of the YMCA. Janet welcomed Council members and guests, and asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the November 3, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Marshall, and seconded by Nannie Brown. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There was no treasurer's report available because of a prior commitment by the GECC Treasurer, Dot Muszinski.

Janet introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Robin Drago. Robin is from West Hartford Public Schools and is a trainer for the **People Empowering People (PEP) Program**. Robin explained the program and answered questions from the group. People Empowering People is an innovative life skills program created and coordinated by Cheryl Czuba, UConn Cooperative Extension Educator. The PEP program is for adults and older teens and is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of participants, and emphasizes the connection between individual and community action. Created over ten years ago, over one thousand individuals have graduated from the PEP program. The GECC is planning to bring this program to Granby parents this spring.

Janet gave an update on the feasibility of the Granby Family Resource Center. Twelve focus groups took place in October and November in various locations around town. The comments from the meetings have all been recorded and given to Paul Vivian, our consultant affiliated with Yale University, who is collating the results for the GECC. The Council continues to desire further input from the Granby community and has created an electronic survey that will be distributed through various venues. An announcement of the Zoomerange Survey will be linked to the Granby BOE, and will appear in the Drummer, and on GCTV. Hard copies will also accompany the announcements placed at the town libraries.

The rest of the December meeting was spent enjoying and sharing favorite holiday books read by friends and members of the GECC. Alan Addley shared his favorite, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, a book that he has read many times with his children, as well as to freshman students when they arrive at Granby High School. Kim Dessert, Principal at Kearns, shared *The Snowmen at Night* by Carolyn Buehner, a book with rhyming text and lively illustrations, perfect for that winter bedtime story. In addition, the Council would like to thank, Evie Caranchini, Lynn Stewart, Bonnie Quinlan, Linda Marshall and Nannie Brown, who all read their Story Time or classroom favorites to the group. Many books were displayed, and a book list was compiled from various members who also made suggestions. The book list has been posted to the GECC website at www.granbyecc.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.
Respectively submitted,
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary

