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**GECC Meeting Minutes****January 5, 2009**

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A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

**In Attendance:**

Carolyn Clement	Kindermusic Educator
Gary Ebersole	Parent and GECC Graphic Artist
Dot Muszinski	GECC Treasurer
Janet Ford	GECC Chairperson
Sheri Litchfield	GECC Secretary
Hillary Peterson	Parent
Barbara Wehrly	Parent
Jenny Waller	E. Granby Congregational Church Nursery School
Jen Goldie	E. Granby Congregational Church Nursery School
Cindy Guerreri	Graustein Memorial Fund Community Liaison
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator

The January 5, 2009 meeting began at 6:34 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 December 1, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Gary Ebersole, and seconded by Joan Rogers. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Dot Muszinski, the GECC Treasurer, reported that current account balance as of 1/5/09 is \$11,855.70. The Graustein Memorial Fund has awarded the GECC an additional \$30,000 grant for 2009. A question was asked by Cindy Guerreri as to why all the money that was given in 2008 had not been used. Dot responded that the Council's intention was to begin a Parents As Teacher's Program in the fall of 2008 and money had been set aside for the training and materials for that program. Since funding to sustain this pilot program through 2009 has yet to be determined, the 2008 funds have been rolled over to begin the program in 2009.

Janet announced an opportunity to attend a Discovery Orientation Workshop for 09' on January 16<sup>th</sup> in Hartford. This meeting will discuss the Discovery strategic planning process for 2010-2014. Joan Rogers and Lydia Tedone are registered to attend and anyone else wishing to attend, should let Joan know.

A request for a mini grant for funding the printing cost of the Granby School Readiness Booklet that volunteers Bonnie Quinlan and Gary Ebersole developed has been denied by the Granby Education Foundation (GEF). The GEF indicated that the request did not fall within their goals. A discussion developed as to how to disseminate this valuable information to Granby families without the cost of printing the booklets. Suggestions were made that this booklet could be used

to further Professional Development Workshops, as well as be distributed through the GECC website. Gary will share several cover design options with the Council in February.

Janet shared once again with the membership her desire to step down as full GECC Chairperson in January 2009, which will complete a 2 year commitment to the Council in this role. Janet has agreed to share her duties with Sheri Litchfield and they will both serve as Co-Chairs to the Council for the remaining term of office. A request has been made that another council member step in to replace Sheri in her present role as GECC Secretary, taking the meeting minutes. The Secretary also serves on the GECC Executive Committee, serving as the leadership and decision making body of the GECC. Please contact Sheri or Joan if you are available to serve in this role.

Joan Rogers gave an update regarding the People Empowering People (PEP) Program that was presented at the December GECC meeting. Several parents have contacted Joan and expressed an interest in participating in the program, and a few people are interested in being trained as facilitators of the program, thereby enabling the GECC to offer PEP to Granby parents. We will want to do all that we can to ensure that we educate the community about this program before we begin to offer the curriculum to those interested.

An update on the Family Resource Center and Feasibility Study Status Report was given by Sheri Litchfield. Of the residents who attended the fall focus groups in town, 81% were in support of a FRC. In addition, 96 people have responded to the on line survey and 75% of those responded that they are in support of a FRC. 89% of those that responded felt that other Granby residents would use a FRC if Granby has one, and 85% felt that there would be a role for a FRC in providing information for families.

Our consultant now has all of the focus group minutes and the Zoomerang survey results that he will collate in developing the FRC feasibility report. He will soon get together with the Ad-hoc FRC Committee and discuss next steps. The GECC would like to thank the YMCA, and specifically Becca Polglase, for their help in providing access to the on line Zoomerang survey service. Becca has done an outstanding job in posting our survey and sharing updated status reports with the committee.

Joan shared information regarding the desire of Becca Polglase to organize a Round Table Discussion Group as a result of research that she has done for her graduate program. The GECC, along with other organizations, has been invited to join and discuss ways that these community groups can better collaborate their resources. Joan and Kate Bogli have both expressed an interest in representing the GECC in this ongoing round table discussion.

Sheri introduced Carolyn Clement, Kindermusik Educator, who discussed the link between positive early childhood development and a child's exposure to music, and also presented some musical examples appropriate for young children. Carolyn stated that music is also great for helping kids make transitions more easily. She sang and played several examples that she uses with her infant groups through school-aged children in her program. Dot Muzsinski shared some old favorites she remembers her family singing when she was a child, and some that she will be singing to her newborn in April. Sheri Litchfield shared some of her classroom favorites like, "Going on a Cool Bear Hunt" by Dr Jean complete with some fun and silly motions to act out.

Sheri lead GECC members as they shared some of their favorite songs that are sung with children. Everyone who shared that evening, as well as those who emailed their selections for the hand out, was thanked. Sheri stated that the February Membership Medley will focus on Valentine's Day/Craft Ideas for love and friendship. Please email your ideas to [office@granbyecc.org](mailto:office@granbyecc.org) no later than January 30<sup>th</sup> to be included in the February packet. Other ideas for the Monthly Membership Medleys for upcoming months were discussed. Some suggested ideas were:

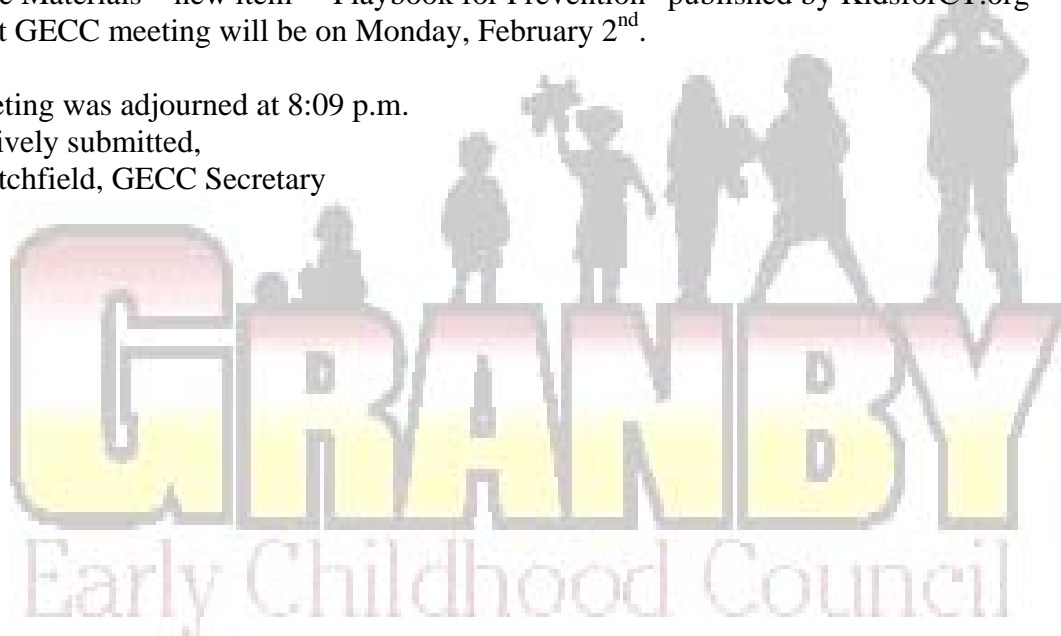
March – March Madness (games to play)

April – Healthy Kids

The next Workshop will be held on January 27, 2009, from 6:00-8:00 at the YMCA. Paula Abrahamson , CCLS, Certified Child Life Specialist, CCCM will present "Preparing Your Child for a Hospital Experience." This workshop will introduce the role of the Child Life Specialist and ways an adult can help support and prepare a child for a hospital experience.

Resource Materials – new item - “Playbook for Prevention” published by KidsforCT.org  
The next GECC meeting will be on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.  
Respectively submitted,  
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Secretary



**The core value that directs the work of the GECC is to ensure that “All children arrive at school healthy and socially and emotionally prepared for academic success and life-long learning.”**

**Funded by the Discovery Grant from the Graustein Memorial Fund**