



A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, February 2, 2009 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

In Attendance:

Gary Ebersole	Parent and GECC Graphic Artist
Kristen Lachapelle	Farmington Valley YMCA
Janet Ford	GECC Co-Chairperson
Sheri Litchfield	GECC Co-Chairperson
Linda Marshall	Special Resources Teacher, Kearns School
Sara Kleinman	Parent and Parent Educator, E. Granby
Laurelyn Keenan	Home childcare provider – Mountain Laurel Daycare
Karen Leveille	Home childcare provider – Kids on Silverbrook
Cindy Guerreri	Graustein Memorial Fund Community Liaison
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator

The February 2, 2009 meeting began at 6:31 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 January 5, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Karen Leveille, and seconded by Sara Kleinman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Janet Ford reported that the current account balance as of 2/2/09 is \$11,170.08. A discussion developed about the encumbered expenses, which was estimated to be about \$9,000.00. Clarification of the reporting form was suggested.

Janet reported that Joan, Dot and Lydia Tedone attended the 09' Discovery Grant Meeting on January 16th to learn more about the Memorial Fund's strategic planning for 2010-2014. The GMF has compiled comments from each of the three sessions that were held regionally throughout CT to solicit input about the 4 year strategic plan from all of the 54 Discovery communities. Joan distributed the document to the membership and asked that everyone review it and to share any comments with her that she will pass on before the February 27th deadline. Cindy Guerreri clarified that although it is the desire of GMF to continue their support to the Discovery communities, that the economic situation is questionable and that future funding is still uncertain.

Janet reported that the GECC submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) on January 22nd to the 2009 Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity in seeking support of a pilot PAT Program in Granby. The grant makers were also seeking Letters of Agreement to be submitted with the application, and the Council is pleased that seven letters were received and attached to the application. The

GECC will await to hear if Granby is selected for a full proposal submission by February 12, 2009. Innovation Fund grants of up to \$125,000 can be awarded for an 18 to 24 month period. Awards will be announced by April 24, 2009 for a July 1, 2009 start-up.

Janet reported that the GECC applied for and received a small grant from the Corrinne G. Levin Education Fund. The \$1000.00 grant will be used instead of Discovery dollars to fund 3 of the remaining workshops that are offered for the remaining school year, freeing up the monies originally committed to the workshops for other GECC action plan items.

Janet shared that Joan Rogers and a parent attended a meeting about bringing two parent leadership models to Granby- People Empowering People (PEP) and Parents Seeking Educational Excellence (Parents SEE). PEP Facilitator Training is offered several times a year. Joan reported that there is interest from several parents to take advantage of these type of trainings. After discussion, however, it was agreed that investing approximately \$5000.00 in programs like this is not merited at this time.

Janet shared the Family Resource Center (FRC) Feasibility Study that was presented to the FRC committee by consultant, Paul Vivian. Based on the results of the focus groups and the on line survey, there is strong support for a FRC to be located in Granby that would provide parenting information and Early Learning Group activities for young children and their parents. A common theme throughout the focus groups and surveys was the notion of having a place, a “hub” to get valuable information about a variety of topics that concern parents. It was suggested that the FRC be supported through a fee based system with scholarships available to families not able to pay for this service. Holcomb Farm continues to be a viable location, however with their present construction projects, the space will most likely not be available until the fall of 2009. The offer of temporary space provided at the YMCA, on Friday mornings when the space is not occupied, will be explored further.

Gary Ebersole shared several options for the front cover of the Granby School Readiness Booklet that was developed by member Bonnie Quinlan. Because there is no funding available to print the booklet for Granby families, it was decided that it will be posted in its entirety on the GECC website.

Sheri spoke that the Ad-hoc By-laws committee would be reconvened to revisit the By-Laws that were created two years ago for the Council. The “Committee” structure that was outlined in the document is non-existent, thus creating an ineffective Executive Committee. Instead a consistent group of eight people who have been jointly working on ALL aspects of the GECC Action Plan, have been fulfilling the role of the “Executive Committee.”

The GECC still desires to have an individual step up as secretary of the Council. This person would also serve on the Executive Committee. Please contact Joan if interested in serving as secretary.

Paula Abrahamson, a Certified Child Life Specialist at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford presented a wonderful and very informative workshop on January 27th. The topic was “Preparing Your Child for a Hospital Stay.” Paula explained the many services the hospital provides to make an emergency or planned hospital stay as informative and comforting as possible for the entire family. The workshop will be televised on GCTV beginning next week.

The evening ended with the “Membership Medley.” Karen Leveille shared her creativity and several of her favorite Valentine’s Day crafts. She provided the materials and demonstrated a Valentine Heart for members to make and take home. Several members contributed to the Medley which was printed and made available to everyone that night. A posting of the February Membership Medley is available on the GECC website at: <http://granbyecc.org/files/fmm.pdf>

The theme for the next “Membership Medley” will be **March Madness**. Please share your ideas for games and physical activities that get children up and moving. Email your suggestions to: office@Granbyecc.org before February 28th to be shared in a handout with the collaborative.

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

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Litchfield, GECC Acting 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.”

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