



A meeting of the *Granby Early Childhood Council* (GECC) was held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at the Farmington Valley YMCA Community Room. In attendance were:

In Attendance:

Judi Cosgrove,	GECC Co-Chairperson
Sheri Litchfield	GECC Co-Chairperson
Mary Myers	Parent
Francine Caselino	Early educator
John Kroninger	Parent
Joan Rogers	Discovery and GECC Coordinator

The May 4, 2009 meeting began at 6:40 pm in the community room of the YMCA. Sheri welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Sheri then asked if there were any additions, deletions or revisions to the minutes from the April 6, 2009 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes by John Kroninger, and seconded by Francine Caselino. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Sheri Litchfield presented the Treasurer's Report and indicated that there is a balance of \$16,647.93 in the 09' Discovery budget.

Sheri asked to amend the agenda to give a status update on the swine flu in Granby. She explained that the GECC had the most recent information on this issue due to the kindness of Superintendent Addley in both calling a meeting with the preschools and the GECC to provide an update on the swine flu, AND his follow up emails to everyone in the preschool environment for the same reason. Sheri thanked him for this communication and show of consideration.

Sheri provided an update on the Early Learning Groups (ELGs) which began on May 1st. She stated that the YMCA has donated space on Fridays for the ELGs and thanked the Y for this. Due to such high demand, the GECC is offering 4 classes, instead of just two as was originally planned. This confirms what the GECC feasibility study indicated – that more early learning opportunities are needed for young children in Granby. The first set of four classes took place this past Friday. Feed back from parents has been very positive. Sheri also stated that the Early Learning Language Series is scheduled to start on May 29th and class enrollment is already filling up quickly.

Sheri informed the Council that on April 13th Superintendent Addley invited the directors and owners of all the Granby preschools to meet with him, the Principal of Kearns School, the District Outreach Coordinator and the Director of Curriculum to discuss ways to improve the

preschool connection to the public schools. As a result of that meeting, Superintendent Addley committed to:

- Professional Development – inviting preschool teachers with the opportunity to attend professional development opportunities where appropriate
- Regular Meetings – arranging semiannual meetings for the directors and members of the school system
- Connections – planning to organize field trip visits for preschool teachers to visit kindergarten classes
- May 14th Orientation – inviting providers to attend Kindergarten orientations
- Newsletters – sending Kearns newsletters to providers
- GECC – continuing representation of Kearns staff at GECC monthly meetings

Sheri reported on progress with the planning of the GECC fall fund raising event entitled, “Are You Smarter Than a Granby student?” She stated that plans continue to move forward. The Committee will meet at the high school soon to look at the auditorium from a logistic standpoint.

Sheri gave an update on the work taking place at the Kindergarten Transition Institute. She stated that following completion of the first module in Hamden, the Granby Kindergarten Transition Team had its first “homework session” in the community on April 13th and that this was very productive in moving forward towards the completion of a kindergarten transition needs assessment which will drive the development of Granby's kindergarten transition plan.

Sheri stated that Celebrate Granby is June 13, 2009 from 10:00-6:00. Parents and providers are needed to help plan a fun-filled day for families with young children. Please contact Joan if interested in a time slot for offering an activity or game for children in the park that day.

Judi gave an update on the work of the Granby Round Table (GRT). The second meeting of the GRT took place on April 14th. The following people/organizations were in attendance: Lisa Reinhardt (Rotary), Adam Castenir (Valley Brook Community Church), Judi Cosgrove & Joan Rogers (Granby Early Childhood Council), Cindy Guerreri (Graustein Memorial Fund), RuthAnn Lobo (Granby Public Schools), Kate Bogli (Granby Chamber of Commerce), Kay Woodford (Granby Department of Recreation), Dave Toley (Granby Drummer), Lori Hoover (Farmington Valley VNA), Matt Gillis (Pilgrim Covenant Church), Kerry Kielbasa (Town of Granby Director of Human Services), Jim Lofink (Holcomb Farm), & Becca Polglase (YMCA).

Sheri stated that the May GECC workshop is entitled, “**Through the Eyes of A Child: Television, Technology and Young Children**” - (presented by Deb Zipkin, Director, The Family Resource Center at Charter Oak Academy). Also, the Membership Medley for the June GECC meeting is "Father's Day Ideas" for young children. Everyone is encouraged to honor fathers by sharing their favorite craft, gift ideas and even stories about Dads with the group. Ideas don't need to be original; they can be activities, stories, songs, etc. that you do in your classroom, at home, or you have seen at a workshop, in books or on the Internet. This is an opportunity for everyone to share, discuss and bring home new ideas that can make quality learning possible for all children in our community.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:06 PM

Respectively submitted,

Joan Rogers, GECC Coordinator and Acting Secretary