

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2006**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Catherine Bradshaw, Lou Brundage, Arlene Cassello, Debbie Culligan, Gretchen Ferri, LuAnn Gallicchio, Jennifer Heath, Yvonne Jones, Mary Marrantino, Betty Mettler, Susan Rubino, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, facilitator

1. Sub-Committee Updates

- A. Steering Committee** – Ellen, Arlene and Catherine will set up a meeting with the Mayor to present the SRC.
- B. Communications and Marketing Committee** – Ellen Thompson distributed some statistics about the www.HamdenKids.org website. The calendar is very popular and weekends seem to be the busiest for viewing the website. We are hoping that more town agencies will post events.
- C. Program Committee** – The town feels that it is very labor intensive to get the list of new babies for the Baby Welcome Packets. LuAnn, Karen and Louise will work together to try to get the list.

The Child Care Directors have been meeting with LuAnn and Karen to plan the Child Care Expo. There are commitments from 10 child care centers, Fire Department, Police Department and Parks and Recreation. There will be demonstrations of dancing and animals. Fliers and posters have been ordered and the Child Care Directors will help distribute them. Press releases will be written and sent to local newspapers. The Directors will also bring a letter around to businesses for donations to the raffle. The next meeting for the expo will be Tuesday, February 28 at 8:00 am at Alice Peck School.

Fliers were distributed around town for the PEP (People Empowering People) program but there was no participation. Guadalupe Martinez is trained to do PEP in both English and Spanish. She will offer a Spanish PEP program in the spring for the Hispanic population. Then she will offer another PEP program in the fall to the entire population. She would like to target Ridge Hill School. The dates, room and babysitter are all in place. A sub-committee will be formed to help with this.

- D. Research and Development Committee** – We did not get the Motherhead Grant. We have not heard yet about the Capitol Improvement Grant.
- E. Advocacy Committee** – no report

2. Community Reports

- A. School Readiness Program** – Hamden is eligible for extra School Readiness money. LuAnn would like to open another program at Alice Peck School. There are eight families to start the program in the spring.
- B. Family Resource Center** – LuAnn will be expanding the Play Groups to Alice Peck School. They will be held two days per week. Wintergreen Magnet School is interested in starting a Play Group. LuAnn will meet with the school staff to discuss space and staffing.

LuAnn is looking to hire the following:

- Administrative Secretary – 18 hours/week
 - Head Teacher – 40 hours/week; BS degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or BS degree in a related field with 12 credits in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
 - Assistant Teacher – 40 hours/week; CDA plus 12 credits in Early Childhood Education or Child Development or 21 credits in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
 - Parent Educator – 12 hours/week; BS degree in a field related to education or family issues
- C. PACK** – During the month of January, two opportunities were offered for PACK families to come to Brundage Community Branch for activities. The first was a collaboration of three PAO's that involved storytelling, arts & crafts, and a musical performance around the theme of Pinocchio. The PACK families in the Highwood/Newhallville areas would first attend the storytelling and craft activity at Brundage. Their next stop would be the Eli Whitney Museum for building and expanding on the craft activity and finally the Opera with Young Audiences at the Keefe Center. The musical performance was well attended but Brundage was affected by mistakes on announcements that went out to the families with changes in the time. A joint flyer went out with all dates for various activities. The ones we received had the correct time yet parents were saying they were given another time for our activity. Another issue that we have faced recently is that because some PAO's offer walk-in projects a few families have expected the same at the library. We have explained that the library closes at 5:30 pm and if a family walks in at 5:00 pm, they miss taking part in the organized activity.

On Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 pm, there will be a wonderful blues musical performance and storytelling opportunity for families with guest Peter Menta. Mr. Menta has performed previously at Brundage and always provides families with an enjoyable, interactive experience celebrating Black History Month.

The PACK Consortium Meeting on January 26 (attended by Becky, Alice, and Sandy) focused on moving forward in 2006, building the consortium, IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant overview and planning meeting. The deadline for this grant is March 1.

D. Facilitator – see report under Program Committee

3. Graustein Report

A. Discovery Questions for Reflection & Action Planning – Copies of the questions and responses were distributed. See attached.

B. Action Plan – The plan was discussed and revisions made. See attached.

4. Other Business –

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at the Government Center Conference Room.