

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

**Members present:** Portia Bonner, Arlene Cassello, Debra Cronin, Dave DeMartino, LuAnn Gallicchio, Yvonne Jones, Sally Natcher, Edie Reichard, Susan Rubino, Ellen Thompson, Alice Torres, Virginia Wright-Younger, Catherine Bradshaw, and Karen Piedescalzo, coordinator

**1. Sub-Committee Updates** – The council discussed the idea of coming up with a new name for the School Readiness Council that is inclusive for all of its members and community agencies. Council members are asked to think about a new name and bring any ideas to the December council meeting.

**A. Program Committee** – A CT Child Care First Aid/CPR workshop is being held on three Mondays in November. Twelve child care providers are enrolled in this American Red Cross workshop. Another CT Child Care First Aid/CPR workshop will be held on Saturday, December 9. They are being held at Hamden High School.

A workshop will be held on Thursday, November 30 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Hamden High School. Kimberly Planas and Tama Tamarkin will present "Social and Emotional Skills for Children".

A workshop will be held on Thursday, December 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Alice Peck School. Jennifer Martin and Kim Sperry, DCF, will present "Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect".

**B. Communication and Marketing Committee** – Jennifer Heath, Mary Marrandino and Ellen Thompson met to discuss a larger perspective for the School Readiness Council and who the players should be.

Ellen will request On-Site Technical Assistance from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. After a discussion it was decided that two initial sessions would be needed.

More community agencies should be submitting information to be put on the website. Information may be submitted directly onto the website or emailed to Karen at [karenpiedescalzo@cox.net](mailto:karenpiedescalzo@cox.net).

**C. Parent Engagement Committee** – There will be a meeting at the Keefe center on Monday, December 4 at noon. Anyone is welcome. They passed around a parent survey that people had questions about and edited. The committee will revisit the survey and discuss distribution.

**D. Kindergarten Transition Committee** – Arlene reported numbers for the Kinder Prep program so far. She also talked about the visits between preschool programs and kindergarten teachers. A discussion needs to take place to discuss the finances for covering classrooms when teachers visit.

## **2. Community Reports**

**A. School Readiness Program** – Security at Alice Peck is still a concern. It was decided that the funds from a preschool startup grant from United Way would be used to install a monitor in the SR classroom and cover the cost of a few other things that need to be done in the SR space at Alice Peck. LuAnn also reported on the lack of movement on the Capital Improvement Grant. It was also noted that any funds spent against the grant can not be paid back. All items intended to be covered by the grant must wait until the final grant approval.

**B. Family Resource Center** – no report

**C. Hamden Youth Services** – no report

**D. PACK** – On Thursday, December 14 Bob Bloom will be coming to the Brundage Library for a drumming program. The Community room is free of mold and can once again be used for programs.

Funding for PACK is secure through April 2007.

**3. Graustein Report** – There will be an Information Session on the 2007 Discovery Grant Renewal Application on Friday, December 8 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund offices in Hamden.

The Graustein Memorial Fund is supporting communities in order to engage parents to have a voice at the policy level.

**4. Other Business** – CT Parent Power is organizing a listening campaign. They are talking with communities on ways to become involved.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at Alice Peck School.**