

**School Readiness Council  
Hamden  
Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2006**

**Members present:** Catherine Bradshaw, Louise Brundage, LuAnn Gallicchio, Yvonne Jones, Mary Marrantino, Betty Mettler, Edie Reichard, Susan Rubino, Ellen Thompson, Alice Torres, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, coordinator

**1. Sub-Committee Updates**

**A. Steering Committee** – no report

**B. Communications and Marketing Committee** – The Hamden Kids website needs to have more input from the community. Karen Piedescalzo has sent letters to the Arts Commission, Hamden/North Haven YMCA, Hamden Library, Parks and Recreation, PTA and PACK to invite them to post activities on the website. Each member of the SRC will ask a community agency to submit information to be posted.

**C. Program Committee** – Susan Rubino will present a Baby Welcome Packet to the Mayor for approval of mass mailing. If he does not approve a mass mailing, then an alternate plan will be developed to distribute the packets at the libraries, Hamden Youth Services, etc. The materials for the packets are at Alice Peck School and ready to be sent.

**D. Research and Development Committee** – no report

**E. Advocacy Committee** – no report

**2. Community Reports**

**A. School Readiness Program** – Another School Readiness Program will open in June at Alice Peck School. The toys and supplies have arrived but LuAnn is still waiting for the shelving. Families are enrolling in the three School Readiness Programs for the fall. Many of those currently enrolled will be going to Kindergarten. The programs will not be able to accommodate all those children on the waiting list.

**B. Family Resource Center** – The programs and the number of families served has increased dramatically. LuAnn will hire two part-time parent educators during the summer to begin working in the fall. They will need Early Childhood experience or an Early Childhood degree. They will need experience working with parents as well as with children.

The Play Group at Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School will begin on May 25 for children who have not had a formal preschool experience. This is a five week parent/child program that provides hands-on, age-appropriate activities, resources and materials for children to be ready for school. The group will meet from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm each Thursday until June 22.

The PEP (People Empowering People) program for Hispanic families has been very successful. The program is required to have five to seven families. The current program has seventeen active families. They will need to do a community project and finish the program by June 12. Anyone with ideas for a community project is asked to contact Guadalupe Martinez at 407-3111. The group meets on Monday nights. Their graduation will be on June 19 at Hamden High School. All SRC members are invited to the graduation.

**C. PACK** – PACK will continue for another year. The PACK Consortium has been meeting with individual PACK groups.

**D. Coordinator** – A CT Child Care First Aid/CPR workshop was held on Saturday, April 29. Twelve child care providers attended this American Red Cross workshop.

A Child Care Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10 at Alice Peck School.

**3. Graustein Report** – Graustein Memorial Fund is offering a Community Organizing Institute on Friday, June 16 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. This training is designed to help parents, providers and community leaders understand the power of the one-on-one conversation tool to build community and increase capacity for parent involvement and action. SRC members are invited to attend.

**4. Other Business** – no report

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at Alice Peck School.**