

**School Readiness Council
Hamden
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2006**

Members present: Portia Bonner, Arlene Cassello, Gretchen Ferri, LuAnn Gallicchio, Jennifer Heath, Yvonne Jones, Mary Marrantino, Susan Rubino, Ellen Thompson, Alice Torres, Virginia Wright-Younger, and Karen Piedescalzo, coordinator

1. Sub-Committee Updates

- A. Steering Committee** – Susan Rubino was appointed Co-Chair of the School Readiness Council.
- B. Communications and Marketing Committee** – The Hamden Kids website has added many activities from Hamden Parks and Recreation. The Hamden Public Schools summer reading list should be added to the website.
- C. Program Committee** – Kindergarten transition questionnaires have been created and are being distributed to preschool teachers, school principals, kindergarten teachers and parents of kindergarten children.

The Mayor has approved the release of the names and addresses of new babies in Hamden. Karen will contact Vera Morrison at the Town Clerks Office to get the list. She will then send out a Baby Welcome Packet for each family. Jennifer Heath will check on the ABC's of School Readiness and the Born Learning materials to include with the packets.

- D. Research and Development Committee** – no report
- E. Advocacy Committee** – no report

2. Community Reports

- A. School Readiness Program** – There are 48 slots available for the School Readiness Programs in the fall. There was extra funding from February through June but this will end in July. All of the Hamden schools are represented by the children attending the Alice Peck program.
- B. Family Resource Center** – The PEP (People Empowering People) program has 15 Hispanic families who have been meeting with Guadalupe Martinez for ten sessions. They have decided to participate in a community project to raise money to offer a forum in the fall targeting Hispanic families. They will have a dinner in the cafeteria of Church Street School on June 23 serving pasta, chicken

and rice. Their graduation will be on June 19 in room C-107 at Hamden High School. All SRC members are invited to attend the graduation.

The Play Group at Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School has twelve families attending. 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 school staff (principal, kindergarten teachers and school social worker) are rotating to meet the families who will be attending the school.

There will be a picnic on June 23 for the play group families at Alice Peck School. The play groups will resume in the fall. Guadalupe may run the play groups at community parks during the summer.

C. PACK – There was a wonderful article about the PACK program and community building in the New Haven Register.

D. Coordinator – An Epi-Pen Re-certification workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 20 at Church Street School. Alycia Clune, R.N. will offer this to child care providers who are currently certified in CT Child Care First Aid and CPR.

Janna Wagner and Tanya Michaelson of All Our Kin will present a workshop on July 13 at Church Street School. Child care providers will participate in a hands-on opportunity to learn about how to “Go Outdoors” with the children.

A Child Care Director’s Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at Alice Peck School.

3. Graustein Report –

4. Other Business – There will be no School Readiness Meeting in July or September.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. at Alice Peck School.