

Meeting Minutes
Great Start Parent Coalition
March 14, 2008
9 AM – 11 AM
Lincoln School, Room 24

Attendance: G. Balcita, S. Balcita, S. Butters, D. Duffin, J. Embury, D. Gibson, R. Jones, K. Roback, A. Thompson, A. Walker, L. Warren,

Agenda & Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome/Introductions
 - We welcomed ECIC's Karen Roback to our meeting and did introductions

2. Announcement – Lisa Warren
 - Lisa Warren announced her resignation from the position of Great Start Parent Liaison effective March 31, 2008. This resignation is due to her family's pending relocation to New Orleans, LA. She has greatly enjoyed her time working with the parents and leaders of Jackson County.
 - Sheri Butters will coordinate hiring efforts to replace Lisa Warren. She has already announced this open position throughout various agencies and through various modes of communication. Interviewing is slated to begin in early April.
 - Ms. Butters asked for volunteers from the Parent Coalition to participate on the Parent Liaison Hiring Committee throughout this process.

3. Upcoming Activities & Events
 - April 25th: Legislative Breakfast at Ella Sharp Museum from 7:30 – 9 AM. All coalition members are invited to attend.
 - April 26th: Love and Logic Event (2 sessions) at Lincoln from 2 – 4 PM and 6 – 8 PM. Free childcare is available. Parent volunteers needed to hand out Parent Coalition information.
 - May 16th: Head Start Year End Picnic at Jackson's Fair Events Center. Need parent volunteers to hand out Coalition information at event.
 - May 21st: Star Power Rally – More information to follow. Coalition members should plan to attend!
 - June 13th & 14th: KidFest at Parkside from 10 AM – 3 PM. Parent volunteers are needed to hand out Parent Coalition information at this event.
 - *Please review the "Action Items" section of this document to determine which Parent Coalition members volunteered for these various events.*

4. Executive Committee Report Out
 - February's Retreat with Bill Millett
 - Executive Committee parent members were very impressed with Mr. Millett's presentation at February's retreat.
 - Lisa Warren reiterated the important and urgent message delivered by Bill Millett during the retreat.
 - Parent Coalition members expressed interest in reviewing Mr. Millett's presentation via DVD. Therefore, arrangements will be made to host a Parent Coalition viewing of this presentation at a later date.
 - March's Executive Committee Meeting
 - The 5-Star Childcare Rating System initiative was introduced to the Parent Coalition, and there was much interest and discussion regarding how this initiative would be implemented.
 - Sheri Butters introduced the Great Start Collaborative's newly formed sub-committees and asked for parent volunteers to serve on these committees as Coalition representatives. Please contact Ms. Butters if you are interested in a particular sub-committee.
5. MHSA Conference Report Out – Dominica Gibson
 - Ms. Gibson recently attended the MHSA Annual Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan and had many positive things to say about this experience.
 - Keynote speaker was excellent, and Ms. Gibson enjoyed attending sessions with many diverse topics, such as: reauthorization, encouraging higher learning for parents, different teaching methods, etc.
 - Ms. Gibson noted that this event was a great place to network, share ideas, and meet new people. She encouraged all Parent Coalition members to participate in events like this in the future.
6. Task Force Committee Report Outs
 - Community Outreach:
 - Great Start brochures were distributed at various locations throughout Jackson.
 - Each Parent Coalition member was given a new supply of Great Start brochures and materials to distribute in the coming month.
 - Dominica familiarized herself with the Chamber of Commerce and Fair Grounds websites.
 - Community Pride:
 - Lisa Warren distributed Jackson County's geographical information to Jessica Embury. Jessica will begin to evaluate this information.

- Recruitment:
 - Suggestions were made to include Great Start brochures and materials in all Jackson County “Kindergarten Round-up” packets.
 - Much discussion regarding offering “incentives” to attract new Parent Coalition members. Various fund-raising options were discussed.
 - The Recruitment Task Force was charged with discussing these options and selecting a few that they would like to pursue. These selections will be presented to the Parent Coalition for selection, and then, forwarded on to the Executive Committee (Infrastructure sub-committee) for approval/guidance.
 - Legislative Watch:
 - State of Michigan Legislative Directories were distributed to all Parent Coalition members and briefly discussed and reviewed.
7. Task Force Working Session Breakouts
- Tabled due to lack of time
8. Open Discussion
- Tabled due to lack of time

Next Meeting:

- Scheduled for **Friday, April 11th at Lincoln School, Rm. 24.**
- **Please notify Lisa Warren if you will require childcare and/or transportation for this meeting NO LATER than Monday, April 7th.** If you do not reserve childcare, then it will not be available to you on that date.

Action Items:

#	Action Item / Task	Person Responsible	Due Date
1	Distribute school district information to Parent Coalition members	S. Butters	4/11/08
2	Distribute Parent Coalition Contact List to all members	L. Warren	4/1/08
3	Distribute Great Start brochures and marketing materials throughout Jackson County this month.	All	4/11/08
4	Review Jackson County geographical information regarding children and begin to identify communities of interest.	Community Pride Task Force	4/11/08
5	Prepare and present presentation for the Parent Coalition regarding MHS A Conference	D. Gibson	4/11/08
6	Select at least three viable fund-raising options for the Parent Coalition to pursue as it pertains to recruitment and incentives	Recruitment Task Force	5/14/08
7	Approach and recruit new members at local school and faith-based locations (at least 5 locations each). Document all locations.	Recruitment Task Force	4/11/08
8	Volunteered to represent the Parent Coalition at Love and Logic event on April 26 th : 2 – 4 PM: S. Balcita, J. Embury 6 – 8 PM: A. Thomson, D. Duffin	L. Warren, S. Balcita, J. Embury, A. Thomson, D. Duffin	4/26/08
9	Volunteered to represent the Parent Coalition at Head Start Year End Picnic on May 16 th .	R. Jones, A. Thomson, S. Balcita	5/16/08
10	Plan to attend Star Power Rally in Lansing, sponsored by ECIC	All	5/21/08
11	Volunteered to represent the Parent Coalition at KidFest event at Parkside on June 13 th & 14 th June 13 th : S. Balcita, A. Walker June 14 th : NEED VOLUNTEERS!	S. Balcita, A. Walker	6/13/08 6/14/08
12	<i>Keep up the GREAT WORK Coalition Members!!!!</i>	All	always