

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Great Start Parent Coalition**  
**March 16, 2009**

Jackson District Library, Summit Branch



**MAR 16 ATTENDANCE:** G. Balcita, J. Embury, A. Walker, J. Lamphere

ACTION ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Send notice of restructuring to all GSPC members	J. Lamphere	31-Mar-09
Select 5-7 organizations to contact and maintain IL supplies	All	Immediate
Organize InformationLibrary Fundraising Activity	All	Immediate
Identify parent groups members wish to represent on the GSPC	All	15-Apr-09
Establish individualized action plans for coming year	All	15-Apr-09
Register for Star Power on May 21	All	15-Apr-09
See Volunteer Opportunities Below and schedule	All	Immediate

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

- The minutes from February were submitted for review and approval. No corrections were noted; minutes were approved.

**PARENT NIGHTS OUT DEBRIEF**

- Parents debriefed the Parents Night Out event and the following items were noted
  - **SUCCESSSES:** John Willis was an ideal speaker and his message was personally motivating for all who attended; the Parent Coalition made a strong connection with the King Center, which appears will lead to further collaboration; of the three new families the GSPC connected with at the event, the Rowlander family expressed an interest to joining the group at future events and seemed to benefit greatly from awareness of community resources for young children; JTV provided coverage; John’s talk provided a perfect framework for reshaping the operations of the GSPC (see ‘Operations’ below).
  - **IMPROVEMENTS:** Concerns were raised surrounding lack of attendance and whether or not additional incentives should be offered to attract new parents. Given the groups budget constraints and past experiences (i.e. family picnics, etc), the GSPC will focus on looking for individuals with a passion for early childhood and inviting them into work plan item(s) as opposed to trying to appeal to a large mass of people. The GSPC will continue to use community events such as Kids Fest and the SAU Learning Fair to promote general community awareness.

**REFINING GS PARENT COALITION OPERATIONS**

- In an effort to promote parent leadership and enthusiasm, the Great Start Parent Coalition will begin restructuring its’ operations. This change means that all active parent members

have the opportunity to set their own work plan and focus on the people and activities that they feel passionate toward.

- J. Lamphere will be sending a letter to every parent on the Coalition's roster by the end of March asking them to identify their current status on the GSPC as either Active, Informational, or Inactive in order to clearly identify the current representation of the Coalition.
- All Active parent members are asked to identify, preferable in writing, the parent group(s) they would like to represent on the GSPC. For example, you may wish to represent the parents from both your church playgroup and your school or daycare provider.
  - Active parents will share GSC news and information with these families throughout the month and report on the status of these groups as it relates to early childhood at each monthly meeting.
  - For example, G. Balcita would like to represent grandparents from his school that are raising their young grandchildren.
- Active parents will also build an annual action plan for themselves, with assistance from the Parent Liaison. This plan will allow parent members to reflect on their passions surrounding early childhood as well as the groups they choose to represent and identify how/where the GSPC can play a role supporting and developing them in the community.
  - The Parent Liaison will work with Active parents to identify the resources to fulfill their work plan.
  - For example, J. Embury will follow up with the Center for Women to identify opportunities to provide young mothers with early childhood resources.
- Informational participants in the GSPC will receive a monthly update of activities, along with a listing of volunteer opportunities.
- J. Lamphere has volunteered to head up the GSPC Legislative Team until additional parent members can be identified with a passion for political engagement.
  - Regular communications will begin to flow from the GSPC to local, state, and federal legislators with the ultimate goal for communication being set at one piece of written communication each month, a presence at all local "town hall" meeting, along with email and telephone contacts as issues arise.

### **GSPC ELECTION – 2009/10 Parent Representatives for the GS Collaborative**

- This election is postponed until reorganization of the group is complete (see above)

### **IMAGINATION LIBRARY FUNDRAISING**

- All GSPC members are asked to lead a fundraising effort for Imagination Library
  - Parents are encouraged to look for opportunities to partner with their local school or daycare during Reading Month (March) and hold an Imagination Library fundraiser

- While parents are encouraged to use their own creativity, some suggestions of activities already planned are a pancake breakfast, penny drive, read-a-thon, and a pizza sale.
- Please contact J. Lamphere asap to identify your fundraising activity and/or for assistance in planning

### **STAR POWER RALLY – Thursday, May 21, Lansing, MI**

- Registration has begun for this year's Star Power Rally sponsored by ECIC at the State Capital. Please let J. Lamphere know if you will be attending or need to coordinate transportation.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- GSPC is forming a **Legislative Response Team** and needs volunteers asap to review current e –publications and periodically draft written or verbal responses from the GSPC.
  - Please contact J. Lamphere if you are willing to help in this effort
- Select 5-7 area **Imagination Library registration** locations to contact every 4-6 weeks to see if they need additional materials.
  - Notify J. Lamphere to mail as needed.
- An additional volunteer is still needed to **host a story hour** at the Carnegie Branch Library on a Wed at 10:00 AM on a date of your choice. Please contact J. Lamphere asap if you are able to give about an hour of your time to help host this event.
- Lead an **IL Fundraiser**
- **Family Expo** – this event will be held on Friday, April 24, at Westwood Mall, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The GSPC will have a booth with games, prizes, and informational material.
  - If you are willing to serve for even an hour, please contact J. Lamphere to volunteer.
- **Walk for Babies** – Ella Sharp Park, Sun, Apr 26, 1:00 PM. Contact S. Butters for details.
- **STAR POWER RALLY** – State Capitol, May 21, 2009. Please contact J. Lamphere to register
- **New Jackson Transformation Gathering** - a community event for all government and faith-based initiatives is being held on Saturday, May 30, from 12-7 PM at Dungy Stadium (Jackson High Football Field) and Great Start will have a booth to be staffed.
  - If you are willing to serve for even an hour, please contact J. Lamphere to volunteer.
  - Please consider helping us raise awareness within the Jackson about Great Start

### **UPCOMING GSPC MEETINGS**

- Mon, **Apr 20**, 10:30 AM, (immediately following story hour) JDL, Parma Branch
- Mon, **Apr 20**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (*712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call*)
- Wed, **May 20**, 10:00 AM, (immediately following story hour) JDL, Springport Branch
- Mon, **May 21**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (*712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call*)
- *JUN, JUL, & AUG TBD*