

MEETING MINUTES

Great Start Parent Coalition

August 12, 2008

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Loomis Park



ATTENDANCE: G. Balcita, S. Balcita, S. Butters, D. Duffin, J. Embury, R. Jones, C. Moss, J. Lamphere

ACTION ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
<i>CARRY OVER ITEMS</i>		
Create a Coalition picture display board	J. Embury	12-Aug-08
Purchase new supply of event "give-away" items	J. Lamphere	30-Sep-08
Research & purchase Coalition site activity	J. Lamphere	30-Sep-08
<i>NEW ITEMS</i>		
Identify parent representative from each county PTO	J. Lamphere	30-Sep-08
Sched a voter registration event @ local school open house	ALL	30-Sep-08
Share Imag Lib/GS Parent Coal. @ local school open house	ALL	30-Sep-08
Volunteer Opportunities		
Families Matter Fall Festival, 9/13 12:00 - 3:00	J. Lamphere / ALL	13-Sep-08
YES WE CAN exhibit	R. Jones / ALL	22-Aug-08
Voter registration event at Lincoln on 9/29, 11:00-2:00	J. Lamphere / ALL	
Attend Policy Council on 9/10 & recruit volunteers	C. Moss	10-Sep-08

MEETING SUMMARY

Great Start Community Picnic

- A picnic was held with the purpose of recruiting new members to the Great Start Parent Coalition
 - This event was promoted throughout the community with fliers, public service announcements, newspaper ads, and personal invitations from members of the Coalition
 - The picnic was attended by ten new families and informed countless others of the Coalition's work
 - The event was attended by six existing Coalition members and their families; it provided a great teambuilding opportunity.
- A brief meeting was held with all attendees and covered the following topics:
 - A organizational chart of Great Start was distributed and an overview of the Collaborative and Coalition was given as well as a short description of how these two groups interact
 - A copy of the Coalitions Connecting Points flier was shared for all to see the numerous levels of participation available within the Coalition

- The Coalitions Action Item Worklist was distributed and the following points were discussed:
 - A public forum on civic engagement is being planning in conjunction with JCC
 - Formal parent leadership training is being planned for the coming school year (1 for fall, winter, & spring) and may be held jointly with Ingham Co. Great Start Parents
 - Spreading the Coalition throughout the county
 - J. Lamphere is working to identify a Coalition representative from each Parent Teacher Organization in the county
 - Voter Registration:
 - Volunteers were solicited from the group to help with the voter registration event planned at Lincoln Elementary on 9/29 from 11:00 – 2:00 (volunteers: D. Duffin)
 - C. Moss volunteered to attend Policy Council on 9/10 from 9:30 – 10:00 and present the registration event and recruit parent volunteers to help
 - J. Lamphere shared that she will be holding a voter registration at Paragon’s school open house and challenged all parent members to do the same at their local school. It was noted that this is the perfect way to share the agenda of the Coalition and emphasize the importance of civic engagement with the families we see every day
 - The Coalition’s September meeting was set for the 17th. from 5:30 – 7:30PM at Lincoln Elementary
 - Child care will be provided and mileage will be reimbursed
 - Attendees are welcomed to bring something to eat; however, given budget constraints, food will no longer be provided.
 - A “virtual” meeting will be held the following week for parents who were unable to attend, whereby parents can call into a conference line and will participate in a meeting over the telephone (more details to follow)
 - Parents were encouraged to ask for opportunities to share Imagination Library/GS Parent Coalition at their local school’s upcoming open house
 - The Parent Coalition will be participating in the Families Matter Fall Festival on 9/13 from 12:00 – 3:00
 - Volunteers were requested to man the Great Start booth (volunteers: D. Duffin)
 - R. Jones presented the YES WE CAN project and asked for volunteers to help her complete an entry for Great Start (no volunteers)

Next Meeting:

- ***The next Parent Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Lincoln Elementary School (154 Clark Street). Please let Jeanette Lamphere know if you will need daycare.***