

MEETING NOTES
Great Start Parent Coalition
Sep 16 & 23, 2008

Lincoln Elementary School
 & Conference Call



ACTION ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Contact J. Lamphere w/child(ren) ages and schools	All	9.30.08
Arrange for a brief meeting/presentation with PTO	All	9.30.08
Assist w/Lincoln Voter Registration on 9/29	All	9.29.08
Schedule Fall, Winter, Spring Parent Leadership Training	J. Lamphere	9.30.08

MEETING SUMMARY

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- The minutes from 8.12.2008 were submitted for review; no corrections were noted.

SEPTEMBER GS COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING RECAP

- The GS Collaborative held a strategic planning session in September to review the group's progress from year one and set goals/objectives for year two; this meeting was facilitated by Mr. Bill Millett who is a consultant for Great Start.
- In summary, the Collaborative was commended for its' efforts in year one with regard to establishing a clear organizational structure and moving forward with relevant activity.
- Each subgroup of the Collaborative reviewed unmet goals from year one and drafted their goals for year two. In year two, the Collaborative was challenged to raise the bar substantially in three areas:
 - Infuse goals with mathematical precision; GSC must specifically define and measuring outcomes for all activities.
 - Evaluate productivity vs. activity. GSC must ensure it is able to measure real change and not just engaging in activities that hopes to produce change.
 - Ensure that the GSC is seen as the community's authority on early childhood and its' message be prominently represented in everything involving Great Start: Great Start = Jackson's investment in Early Childhood = Jackson's Social/Economic Future

ECIC GS PARENT COALITION GUIDELINES

- The latest revision of Parent Coalition Guidelines, as released from ECIC, were shared for review.
 - The group was directed to read Sec III- ECIC Approved and Appropriate Use of GSOC Funds, found on page four for the document.

- It was noted that in order to leverage dollars for work within the community less money will be used to fund hospitality for regular monthly meetings; however, the group is still welcome to provide/bring hospitality items.

GS COLLABORATIVE GUIDELINES

- The new Jackson County GS Collaborative Guidelines were distributed for review.
 - Special attention was given to the Membership Composition listed on page two.
 - Parent representatives will now be recommended (by a vote of the Parent Coalition) for membership to the GS Collaborative and, if approved, hold voting rights for a two-year term. This process will begin in March 2009.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) INITIATIVE

- *All members of the GS Parent Coalition were asked to help update the Coalition Membership Listing by **providing the ages of their children and the schools which they attend**.* This will help the Coalition identify the areas of the county/school systems where they have a current connection and allow the Coalition to build connections where there are presently none.
 - *Please call or email J. Lamphere with this information ASAP at Jeanette@yogajackson.com or 517.206.2531*
- Letters requesting an opportunity to briefly present Great Start were recently sent to every PTO identified in Jackson County. The goal of this activity is to establish clear lines of communication with other parent networks throughout the county and to work with them to address the specific needs of their community regarding early childhood.
 - *Parents were asked to please work with Jeanette Lamphere to help facilitate this process and contact their PTO representative to schedule time to present at either a one-to-one or regular PTO meeting.*
 - J. Lamphere has prepared a brief presentation, which asks to build a bridge of communication between the GS Parent Coalition and the local PTO, and will be happy to either come and present the material or work with parents to allow them to present.

PARENT COALITION MEETING SCHEDULE

- Two Parent Appreciation Events will be held each year.
- Quarterly drawings will now be held for a “Parenting Success Gift Basket” (first basket to be given away in January 2009 based on Oct, Nov, Dec 2008 participation)
 - For every GS meeting attended or event volunteered, receive one entry.
 - Bring a friend to a meeting, and receive two additional entries.
- It was decided that both an evening and a daytime meeting will be offered to allow greatest flexibility for attendance.
 - Daytime meetings will be held face-to-face, and evening meetings will be held via conference calling.
 - For variety, the next three daytime meetings will be held in the community at the E. Michigan Avenue McDonald’s (across from Meijers). Parents are welcome to bring

their children and allow them to play in the playland area while we go through our agenda.

- ***Parents and children will be provided with a free beverage or snack.***

- Monthly meeting dates and times are as follows:
 - Mon, **Oct 20**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, E. Michigan McDonald's
 - Tue, **Oct 21**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call)
 - Mon, **Nov 17**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, E. Michigan McDonald's
 - Mon, **Nov 17**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call)
 - Mon, **Dec 15**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, E. Michigan McDonald's
 - Tue, **Dec 16**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Parent volunteers were asked to help with a voter registration event to be held in conjunction with JCC on Monday, Sep 29, at Lincoln Elementary from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Please call J. Lamphere (517.206.2531) to schedule a time to help.

MONTHLY LEADERSHIP – THE POWER OF THE PERSONAL INVITATION

- Parents were reminded of the power of a personal invitation to a peer, friend or relative. Whether we are asking another to vote, attend a meeting, or change a behavior, looking the other person in the eye and asking with *authenticity* and *sincerity* plants a powerful seed for change...even if that change is not immediate. In today's busy world, remember a handwritten note instead of an email or a phone call instead of a text message can make a big difference in directing behavior. Tell people around you that their choices matter to you and to their children; help them to choose a positive direction with your invitations.

NEXT MEETINGS

- ***October Parent Coalition meetings***
 - ***Face-to-face: Monday, October 20***, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at E. Michigan McDonald's (across from Meijer)
 - ***Conference Call: Tuesday, October 21***, beginning at 6:30 PM; dial 712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call