

MEETING MINUTES

Great Start Parent Coalition

October 20 & 21, 2008

E. Michigan Avenue McDonald's
& Conference Call



OCT 20 ATTENDANCE: G. Balcita, S. Balcita, D. Duffin, J. Lamphere

OCT 21 ATTENDANCE: None

ACTION ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Contact J. Lamphere w/child(ren) ages and schools	All	9.30.08
Identify if school district has a team for Nov 20 ISD training	All	10.31.08
Notify J. Lamphere if attending Poverty Summit	All	10.29.08
Schedule 2009 Monthly Meeting @ Libraries	J. Lamphere	10.31.08
Townsend Elementary Fall Festival	G & S Balcia, A. Culverhose, J.	11.7.08
Attend Nov 20 ISD training w/school team	As needed	11.20.08
Attend Dec 10 ISD forum re:Coord. Health Model for Ja	All	12.10.08

MEETING SUMMARY

REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

GS COLLABORATIVE UPDATE – COMMUNITY FORUM W/DR. PAT COOPER

- Dr. Pat Cooper's presentation and corresponding packet of handouts were reviewed and the following points were highlighted:
 - The Coordinated School Health model truly supports the whole child through the following elements: **health education** including a formal K-8 nine-week program; **physical education** providing an average of 30 minutes of organized PE every day; **physical health services** by nurses, physicians, and dentists; **psychological and counseling services** including drug, alcohol, and pregnancy counseling; **nutrition services** with policies and menus to support a healthy lifestyle; **safe and healthy school environments** including security cameras in schools and busses and a new on-site partnership with local law enforcement; **family involvement** including parenting and conflict resolution classes as well as faith-based partnerships for mentoring; and finally **academic opportunity** including a district-wide early childhood coalition, off-site tutoring centers, and a family nurturing center/day care for teen parents and their babies for prenatal, postnatal, and child care classes as well as full-time day care while a parent is in school.
- The Jackson Intermediate School District is offering training for county schools who would like to move toward the coordinated school health/early childhood model.
 - The next training for school teams will be on November 20 at the ISD
 - A **community forum** will be held on **December 10** at the ISD to establish an action plan for the community to support our local schools in their transition
 - **GS Coalition parents should plan to attend this meeting**

PTO INITIATIVE

- Recent Great Start orientation meetings have been held with representatives from Bertha Robinson, Bean, Paragon, and Townsend Elementary Schools' Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO's), and based on these and in light of the momentum behind the Coordinated School Health/Early Childhood model that is being adopted within Jackson County, the GS Coalition decided to narrow the focus it's PTO initiative in the short-term to work intensively with 2-4 schools that have chosen to adopt this new coordinated model of education.
 - Our focus will be to identify a GS Coalition parent(s) and a corresponding PTO parent(s) to sit on the school's Coordinated Health/Early Education Team to represent Great Start and advocate for early childhood.
 - Once a successful model is developed with a few strong early adoptors, the GS Parent Coalition will look to broaden its participation and replicate its success with other county schools.
- The following schools have been identified through the ISD as either already having existing Coordinated School Health/Early Childhood Teams or as signed up for the Nov 20 team training:
 - **HAS TRAINED TEAMS IN PLACE:** JPS (has one team for all schools), Grass Lake, Vandercook, Northwest, and Michigan Center
 - **SIGNED UP FOR NOV 20 TRAINING:** Paragon, DaVinci, Springport, Michigan Center (training additional team members)
- **ALL GS PARENT COALITION MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO TALK WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL (if you have school-age children) AND IDENTIFY IF THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM OR A MEMBER OF THE COALITION TO REPRESENT GREAT START AND EARLY CHILDHOOD ON THEIR SCHOOLS TEAM;** please contact J. Lamphere as soon as possible with this information.
 - Please see attached Talking Points
 - If your principal is unfamiliar with this effort, please direct them to the ISD's website at www.jcisd.org and tell them to look in the "professional development brochure" or they can speak with their school system's Safe & Drug-Free School Coordinator for additional information.
- The GS Coalition felt this was the opportunity the group has been waiting for to strategically align with the community and move the early childhood agenda forward. The group was also highly energized by the opportunity to grow the active participation within the Coalition by inviting other parents into a very specific initiate and introduce them to Great Start.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

- The new Great Start Parent Coalition Brochure was distributed.
 - This helpful tool should be shared with other parents/organizations when introducing them to the Parent Coalition.
 - Please contact J. Lamphere for additional supplies
- Local Voter Guides were made available to parents

- Per a recent email, J. Lamphere created a new email for matters related to Great Start: greatstartparents@live.com. Please use this address when emailing Jeanette or to share with others.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Parents were invited to attend the Michigan Poverty Summit on Thursday, November 13, from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM at Cobo Hall in Detroit.
 - **Please contact J. Lamphere no later than Wed., Oct 29, if you plan to attend and would like to have your registration fee covered by Great Start.**
 - Mileage and child care (\$5/hr. up to \$50) will be reimbursed by Great Start for those attending.
 - A charter bus will be picking up Jackson participant at 5:30 AM on the 13th. **Please let J. Lamphere know if you wish to arrange for this transportation.**
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PARENT COALITION MEETING SCHEDULE

- **A change was made to our monthly meeting and times.** Please see the revised schedule below.
 - Tue, **Nov 25**, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, E. Michigan McDonald's
 - Tue, **Nov 25**, 6:45 – 7:45 PM, Conference Call (*712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call*)
 - Tue, **Dec 16**, 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*)
- Tentatively, beginning in January 2009, our monthly face-to-face Parent Coalition meetings will be held at one of the county's 13 public libraries in conjunction with their pre-school story hours. This will allow the Coalition to continue to spread the word regarding Great Start and invite other parents to join our efforts.
 - An exact schedule will be published as soon as it is confirmed

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: Tuesday, November 25**, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at E. Michigan McDonald's (across from Meijer)
 - **Conference Call: Tuesday, November 25**, beginning at 6:45 PM; dial 712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call