

MEETING MINUTES
Great Start Parent Coalition
December 16, 2008

E. Michigan Avenue McDonald's
 & Conference Call



DEC 16 ATTENDANCE: C. Balderman, D. Duffin, C. Moss, A. Walker, J. Lamphere

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ACTION ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Identify if school district has/will have a CSH/EC Team	All	12.31.08
Select 5-7 organizations to contact and maintain IL supp	Allies	12.31.08
Organize IL fundraiser - pancake breakfast	A. Walker	
Mail poverty inquiry to legislators	J. Lamphere	1.15.09
Identify 2009 legislative town hall meeting schedules	J. Lamphere	1.15.09
Organize Community Parent Appreciation Event	J. Lamphere	1.10.09
Finalize promotion materials for JDL meetings	J. Lamphere	1.1.09

MEETING SUMMARY

REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

LETTER TO LEGISLATORS – Poverty Summit follow up

- As discussed in November, a letter was drafted to Jackson’s local, state, and federal legislators regarding the state of and plans for addressing poverty in Jackson County. This letter (attached) was presented to the Parent Coalition for discussion, correction, and approval.
 - No corrections were made; all approved
 - This letter will be mailed in January, once these legislators return from the holidays, and in some cases, assume their new roles
- To continue an ongoing dialogue with these same legislators, J. Lamphere is going to obtain their community meeting schedules for 2009
 - The Parent Coalition will put together a rotating schedule to ensure Great Start representation at these meetings throughout the year

COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MODEL

- **BEAN ELEMENTARY – C. Balderman**
 - Cyndi shared her experiences to date helping Bean Elementary understand CSH/ECE and evaluate their participation
 - She started by speaking with the principal and providing him with information.
 - She then spoke with the head of the PTO and was invited to present at the next PTO meeting where much enthusiasm was generated.

- After winter break, Cyndi will follow up with the PTO to discuss next steps.
- In this process, she was able to spread the word regarding Imagination Library and raise awareness about Great Start to the Bean community
- **JPS UPDATE – J. Embury**
 - Jessica was unavailable for an update on her first meeting as a JPS CSH/ECE team member in December
- **PARAGON UPDATE – R. Jones**
 - Robin was unable to attend and update the group on Paragon’s progress to date
 - J. Lamphere shared that Robin attended CSH/ECE Team Training at the ISD on 11/20, along with other members of Paragon’s staff, and Paragon will hold their first meeting in January 2009 to set their plan of implementation
- **TOWNSEND ELEMENTARY – G. Balcita**
 - Geno was unavailable to update the group on progress helping Townsend Elementary launch their CSH/ECE team
- After some discussion, A. Walker will present this initiative to the Principal of Jackson Christian Elementary
 - J. Lamphere will put together a packet of information and talking points
- It was also noted that because of the rising momentum of the CSH/ECE model, Northwest and Michigan Center schools have recently purchased pre-school curriculums that they are now offering for free to any pre-school provider in their district. These two districts are showing exceptional leadership by defining Kindergarten readiness for their areas and freely supporting providers to ensure their children are ready to meet these standards.
 - J. Lamphere will be working to identify parents within these districts who would be willing to represent Great Start on both Northwest and Michigan Center’s CSH/ECE teams.
- **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 SCHOOL’S 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.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

- Parents were provided a listing of area locations where IL registration information is located and asked to lend a hand in maintaining these supplies.
 - **Specifically, each parent was asked to select 5-7 organizations from the attached list, and provide J. Lamphere with those names.**
 - **Parents will then contact these places every 4-6 weeks to check on their registration supplies and let J. Lamphere know if supplies need to be mailed.**
 - *(Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!!!)*

- Additional registration locations were identified by Great Start parents and will be added to the list (update attached)

2009 MEETING GS PARENT COALITION MEETING SCHEDULE

- A 2009 meeting schedule was presented which aligns with existing Jackson District Library pre-school story hours (see attached).
 - Great Start will host the story-hour, provide refreshments and ‘give-aways’, share Imagination Library and Great Start, and hold its’ monthly meeting immediately following these activities to allow story-hour guests to stay and participate.
 - Coverage is needed for a few story hours that conflict with J. Lamphere’s work schedule (see schedule notes)
 - C. Balderman volunteered to cover the Mar 25 storyhour at the Spring Arbor Branch library
 - D. Duffin is considering covering the Wed AM toddler story hour at Carnegie
- A. Walker is considering organizing a Pancake Breakfast at her church to raise money and awareness for Imagination Library.
 - All present were in favor of supporting Alice
 - She will talk with her church and follow up with the group in the weeks to come

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 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.
- A community parent-appreciation event is currently being organized for a Friday evening in early February. As soon as the speaker is secured (potentially Rev. Hines from Lily Missions speaking about being a foot soldier for change in your community), parents will be asked to help with promotion and organizational details.

MONTHLY LEADERSHIP – *Change Without Resistance*

- Parents received and article (attached) presenting the model of “Appreciative Inquiry” for managing change.
 - All are asked to not only read this thought provoking piece but to share with others who are struggling with change in their life.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Mon, **Jan 26**, 11:30 AM (immediately following story hour) JDL, Concord Branch
- Mon, **Jan 26**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call)
- Wed, **Feb 18**, 2:00 PM (immediately following story hour) JDL, Carnegie Branch
- Mon, **Feb 23**, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Conference Call (712.580.7700 press GS1# when prompted to access call)
- Mon, **Mar 16**, 6:00 PM (prior to story hour) JDL, Summit Branch (this evening meeting will replace conference call for the month of March)
- Wed, **Mar 25**, 11:00 AM, (immediately following story hour) JDL, Spring Arbor Branch