

Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council (SRACCAC)**Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting Minutes ~ January 8, 2010**

Members present: Lynnette Baroni, Michael Fay, Sue Gottlieb, Christina Kazanas, Priscilla Long, Pat Naylor, Greta Roberts, Tammy Trojanowski

Discovery Liaison: Sonja Ahuja

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Sue Gottlieb called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

II. **Members Updates:**

Knowledge Learning Corporation (KLC) had an Open House for their new classroom at Franklin School. Nineteen families are enrolled in the program that is scheduled to open on January 11, 2010. In addition, KLC reported that they are filling full-pay spaces at both the Stratford Academy and South End Community Center School Readiness programs.

The Stratford Library Association has chosen the book **The Black Girl Next Door** for their **One Book, One Stratford** town wide reading event.

Stratford Public Schools are sponsoring a Welcome to Kindergarten program in cooperation with the SCRACCAC. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at Johnson House of Stratford Academy. The "snow date" for the event is Thursday, January 28th.

III. **Approval of Minutes:** MOTION made by Christina Kazanas, SECONDED by Pat Naylor to accept the December 2009 Executive Steering Committee Meeting minutes with the correction of *the Governor recommended that the Youth Service Bureaus have 25% cut from their budget.* APPROVED.

IV. **School Readiness Grant Report**

- a. **Additional money for slots** –the State Department of Education (SDE) has funded five additional school readiness spaces. All of these spaces were filled.
- b. **Space Capacity Questionnaire** – Sue Gottlieb, Pat Naylor, and Priscilla Long met to discuss the SDE Space Capacity Questionnaire. Priscilla will contact all the preschools, and then complete the questionnaire for the Council's approval.

V. **Discovery**

a. **Discovery Option 3 Project** – the ESC had a lengthy discussion concerning the 2010-2014 Discovery Grant process. Stratford has decided to go with Option 3 which means that the SRACCAC will not continue with their planning process, but will decide on specific project work to complete over the next couple of years. The project work will focus on priority areas that have been identified as a result of the work done on Stratford's Promise to Young Children. Several suggestions for projects included Parent leadership initiatives, communication plans, community conversations that would move the planning work forward among others. Sonja counseled the group to not get caught in the Action Trap as the group was also caught in the Planning Trap. She suggested that we look to the areas that



were identified during planning – including CMT scores, kindergarten readiness and the prenatal health indicators. The ESC had discovered a sense of urgency around these issues, and the project work selected could focus on one or more of them. Sue Gottlieb stressed once again the need to connect with the Stratford Public Schools strategic plan, as there are many areas in the plan that could connect with the focus of the SRACCAC. Because Stratford has a great deal of carry in funds, several questions arose about whether Stratford is eligible for additional funds. Sonja and Priscilla will explore these questions with Carmen Siberon from Graustein. The full SRACCAC will discuss this topic further at the January 19th meeting.

b. Role of the Discovery Liaison – Graustein is reshaping the role of the Discovery liaison, and their work with each community. Each liaison will have approximately five to six hours a month – including planning, travel and meeting attendance with each community. It is up to the community to define the scope of work for their liaison. The ESC will consider the project work and then determine what is the best use of our liaison's time.

- VI. January Meeting Agenda** – Evelyn Russo, Haskins Laboratory Associate with present information about the kindergarten literacy program. In addition, the SRACCAC will discuss the project work for Option 3 of the Discovery Grant.
- VII. Adjournment** – **The next meeting of the SRACCAC Executive Steering Committee is scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2010, 9-11 a.m. in room 110 of the Birdseye Municipal Complex.**