

Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council (SRACCAC)**Meeting Minutes ~ March 16, 2010**

Members present: LaSandria Boyd, Melissa Daskam, Michael Fay, Sue Gottlieb, Shamain Johnson, Christina Kazanas, Priscilla Long, Ellen Michaels, Pat Naylor, Martha Simpson, Mary Tiernan, Tammy Trojanowski, Elaine Watson

Discovery Liaison: Sonja Ahuja

Members absent: Trina Carr, Priscilla Choquette, Melanie Georgalas, Lynne Goetz, Sally Head, Robert Landis, Abel Padro, Myra Watnick

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Sue Gottlieb called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of January 2010 Council Minutes** – Michael Fay reported that he did not attend the January Council meeting as reported in the minutes. Ellen Michaels MOTIONED to accept the January 2010 Council Minutes with the deletion of Michael Fay's name; SECONDED by Priscilla Long. APPROVED.
- III. **Presentation and Discussion: The Discovery Grant 2010 – Early Developmental Screening Project** presented by Priscilla Long. Priscilla reviewed the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), a developmental screening tool for children aged two months through five years. This screening is organized into five domains including communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal social. Parents complete the screening based on their observations and scoring on the tool is completed by Parent Educators. The scoring indicated whether a child is on track developmentally; in a "monitoring zone" that requires further attention and monitoring; or below a cut-off level that signals a child needs a referral for a more in depth developmental assessment. Stratford Parents' Place will increase the number of children they screen monthly by about 50% with this Discovery Project. In addition to the ASQ for the five domains, there is also an ASQ that focuses solely on the Social/Emotional Development of a child. This tool is used along with the regular ASQ and begins at 18 months of age.
- IV. **School Readiness Grant Report**
 - a. **Change in fiscal agent** – Priscilla reported that the Town of Stratford would no longer remain the fiscal agent for the School Readiness Grant. The Stratford Public Schools will become the fiscal agent for this program beginning in July 2010.
 - b. **Nominating Committee** – Pat Naylor reported that she would continue on the Nominating Committee. In addition, Lasandria Boyd and Melissa Daskam will also work on this committee.
 - c. **By-Law Revision** - The Council received the recommended By-Law Revision two weeks prior to the meeting. This revision will take the By-Laws back to the same format regarding the Co-chairs as it was prior to working on the early childhood plan. MOTION made by Elaine Watson to accept the By-Laws as presented; SECONDED by Michael Fay. APPROVED.

- V. **Status of the Discovery Grant – Planning Group** – Sue Gottlieb and Priscilla Long reviewed the status of the Discovery Grant, reiterating that the SRACCAC chose Option #3 – which is project specific. Stratford Parents' Place will complete a project on the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening. The SRACCAC will no longer work on Stratford's Promise for Young Children at this time, but may return to the planning process in the future. The group discussed the necessity of communicating to the Stratford Board of Education as well as others who worked on the plan, the SRACCAC progress to date as well as its decision to suspend work on Stratford's Promise to Young Children. It was agreed that a letter would go out to all stakeholders involved.
- VI. **Adjournment – The next meet of the Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**