



## **Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council (SRACCAC)/**

### **Promise Leadership Work Group (PLWG) ~ Meeting Minutes**

**January 20, 2009**

**Members present (SRACCAC members):** Lynnette Baroni, Tom Coakley, Helen Craye, Melissa Daskam, Diana Dilorio, Chris Dina, Sara Feudo, Susan Gottlieb, Robert Landis, Priscilla Long, Denise Nalezynski, Pat Naylor, Abel Padro, Greta Roberts, Carolyn Ross, Alix Semanchik, Tammy Trojanowski, Myra Watnick, Elaine Watson, Katie Yanzo (representing Martha Simpson).

**SRACCAC Members Absent:** Nell Barrett, LaSandria Boyd, Trina Carr, Priscilla Choquette, Melanie Georgalas, Kathryn Giordano, Ellen Michaels, Abel Padro

**Consultant:** Sonja Ahuja

**Staff:** Laurie Raccuia

- I. **Welcome/Introductions:** Alix Semanchik and Sue Gottlieb conducted.
- II. **Approval of November 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Carolyn Ross MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the November 2008 SRACCAC/PLWG meeting; SECONDED by Elaine Watson; APPROVED.
- III. **Partner Updates:**
  - **Greta Roberts, Stratford Health Department**, asked for assistance on a survey that she is administering for a graduate school project. Greta was looking for parents of male children ages 8 – 18 to complete her survey.
  - **Priscilla Long, Stratford Parents' Place (SPP)**, announced that Peggy Fernandes has resigned from the SRACCAC, citing family obligations.
  - **Pat Naylor, Stratford Public Schools**, announced that the Stratford Public Schools Kindergarten Parent Orientation program is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2009 (snow date of January 29), 7:00 p.m. at Stratford Academy, Johnson House. Sue Gottlieb and Alix Semanchik, SRACCAC Co-chairs will provide opening remarks. Other partners included at the program include, Knowledge Learning Corporation (KLC), Durham School Bus Company, the Stratford YMCA, Sodexo Food Services, the PTA Council, and Stratford Parents' Place. In addition to this event, Pat also announced that centralized kindergarten registration is scheduled for the Stratford Library during the

month of March 2009. Pat also informed the group that Norma Tomes' (KLC staff) father died earlier in the day. Condolences go out to Norma and her family.

- **Barbara Blossveren, Stratford Library Association**, announced that the Library is now offering a knitting class for six – nine year old children.
- **Tammy Trojanowski, Stratford Community Services**, reported that the information about SPP included in the kindergarten registration packets this year is written in both English and Spanish. This initiative was one of the goals of the SRACCAC Discovery plan.

**IV. Small Group Activity Session: Turn the Curve: Strategic Areas** led by Sonja Ahuja. Sonja reminded the group to think of low-cost, no-cost strategies because in this economy that will prove valuable. Sonja led the group through the exercise using the Safety strategic area – using the questions, Who are the partners that play a role in turning the curve; What strategies would work to turn the curve; and What do we propose to do? The groups self-divided and completed the exercise. At the end of the small group time, each strategic area shared their findings. (See enclosed sheet.)

**V. Adjournment: The next meeting of the SRACCAC/PLWG is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 6:30-8:30 p.m., room 110, in the Birdseye Municipal Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford.**