

Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council (SRACCAC)**Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting Minutes****October 2, 2009**

Members present: Lynnette Baroni, Barbara Blosveren, Melissa Daskam, Michael Fay, Sue Gottlieb, Priscilla Long, Pat Naylor, Abel Padro, Alix Semanchik, Myra Watnick, Elaine Watson.

Members absent: Christina Kazanas, Greta Roberts, Tammy Trojanowski, Alice Williams

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

II. **Members Updates -**

Sue Gottlieb reported that she and Alix Semanchik spoke to the Board of Education (BOE) at their September 28th meeting. She asked the BOE to continue to work with the SRACCAC, and inquired how they saw their group working with the Council on Stratford's Promise. It was pointed out that four members of the BOE would end their terms so it is important to continue the dialogue with newly elected members.

Sue contacted Helen Craye, PTA Council President to find out how many of the elementary schools participated in the Meet Your Classmates event in August, prior to the beginning of kindergarten. Although the results are not all in, both Stratford Academy (SA) and Second Hill Lane (SHL) Schools held events. All six-kindergarten teachers from SHL were present at their event. SA continued to distribute the What You Need to Know magnets and also gave SA water bottles to the children.

Sue also reported that she attended the Graustein Technical Assistance session on *Sustaining the Community Agenda*. She will share the information she learned at a future meeting.

Pat Naylor reported that the Stratford Public Schools (SPS) Community Conversation on Education was well attended, and was close to the mark with the number of participants.

Alix Semanchik announced that Wooster Middle School was one of the 30 schools chosen nationally to receive \$15k in funding for a new field.

Elaine Watson reported that the SPS is continuing Scientific Research Based Interventions with kindergarten and first grade children based on knowledge and skills gained from research at Haskins Laboratories at Yale University. SPS teachers will make tiered interventions with k and first grade children to help identify and prevent reading difficulties. The SPS is planning a professional development with Dr. Susan Brady of Haskins Laboratories on November 3, 2009 and Stratford early childhood professionals are encouraged to attend this workshop.

Priscilla Long announced that the Town of Stratford is conducting a Diaper Drive in cooperation with the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County. Irene Cornish and Janice Gruendel are the spokespersons for this event and the goal is to collect a HALF MILLION diapers. Collection receptacles for diapers are in all the elementary schools, at Town Hall, the South End Community Center, the Stratford Library and Stratford Parents' Place.

Sue and Alix asked the ESC if the meeting time for the group remain on Friday afternoon. The consensus was it is a good time, but the meeting should start at 12:00 and end at 2:00 p.m. Priscilla will send out a list of all meeting dates and times.



- III. **Approval of Minutes** – MOTION made by Abel Padro to accept the September 11, 2009 Executive Steering Committee minutes; **SECONDED** by Barbara Blossveren. **APPROVED**.
- IV. **School Readiness Updates** - Michael Fay and Priscilla Long reported that KLC is sponsoring an Open House on October 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at the South End Community Center. All of the school readiness slots are filled, but there are still openings for full pay children.
- V. **Discovery Initiative**
- a. Independent Survey for the Discovery Grant (See attached completed survey.)
 - b. Job Description – The group reviewed the second draft of the job description. Barbara Blossveren suggested that adding an educational level to the description. The ESC but was unable to vote on it due to not having a quorum.
- VI. **Stratford' Promise to Young Children** – The intent of this agenda item was to continue the editing process on *Stratford's Promise to Young Children*. However, due to the early exit of several ESC members from the meeting, there was not a large enough group to continue editing. Priscilla Long suggested that the ESC consider hiring a consultant/writer who could pull the plan together. There is currently enough money in the Discovery budget to fund this person.
- Because there was not a quorum present to vote on either this, or the Discovery Job Description, Sue suggested that we do an email vote on both of these actions. She will send out an email within the week to all members of the ESC.
- VII. **Adjourn** – The next meeting of the ESC is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2009, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. in room 110 at the Birdseye Municipal Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford.