

Plymouth Early Childhood Council Minutes 4.23.10

Present: Faye Johnpiere, Abigail Egan, Pam Wessman, Siobhan Kalnins, Cindy Guerreri, Rosemary Drescher, Donna Osuch, Tommy Meehan, John Wunsch, Hildie Siemiatkoski, Donna Koser, and Sue Vivian

Minutes: Minutes of 3.26.10 were approved.

Nomination for Co-Chair: Pete Lovely, Pam Wessman, and Abigail Egan were nominated. Pete and Pam declined. The Council was thrilled to vote in Abigail as our new Co-Chair.

Graustein Grant News: Plymouth has been awarded a \$25,000. grant to work on an Early Childhood Community Plan with the chance of another \$25,000. next year. The Interview Committee interviewed 3 candidates for Plymouth's Community Planning Consultant and were looking for someone that felt the process was more important than the product and the plan that can be used and not sit on the shelf. The committee recommended Paul Vivian for the job and Donna K. will call him to offer him the position.

Subcommittee Reports

Assessment Team: Donna O. reported that this committee hasn't met this month and is hoping that the planning process will spark direction for this group.

Transition Team: Pam stated that the team will meet next month. They have shared the Preschool Checklist with Preschools and are also hoping to reach out to Home Childcare providers. Faye volunteered to write a cover letter and parent release and to share these with providers. This checklist helps teachers build class lists for next year. The team was pleased with registration this spring as many families registered early.

Professional Development: The next meeting to plan workshops for next year will be in August. If anyone has any workshop topics they would like to see offered, please pass them to Donna K.

School Readiness: Sue reported that the SR grant is due on May 20th and the End of the Year Report is due in August. Programs are working to submit paperwork and completing parent surveys. Sue shared the figure that 38% of babies born in 2006 were born to mothers with less than a High School degree.* Recognizing that the educational level of parents is a predictor of children's success, the group would like to invite someone from Foothills to talk with us about Adult Education in Plymouth.

Communication/Membership: The council is considering combining these 2 committees. They have similar responsibilities and members. Hildie would like us to make sure we look for someone from the clergy to be part of our Council.

Graustein Technical Assistance Update

Kindergarten Institute: Dates are not out yet, but Donna K. will send to the Transition Team when they have been made public.

RBA Institute: RBA training is a requirement for communities awarded the Community Planning Option 2 Grant. Donna K. will fill out the application which is due on May 6. A well-rounded team will participate in the training and communicate back with the Council. Donna O, Donna K, Gretchen, Pete, Abigail, and Faye (maybe Tommy and ShawnMarie) are interested.

We will apply for Session #2 (May 25, June 22, August 21, and September 21) as our first choice and Session #1 as our second choice.

Community Planning Meeting: On May 4th, communities that have been through the Planning process will speak about lessons learned.

Stone Soup Conference: Save the date October 19, 2010.

May Meeting: Donna K. will ask Paul if our May 28th (9:00-11:00) meeting can be a kick-off for our Community Planning work. We decided not to offer a big breakfast, but are asking folks to volunteer light breakfast fare. The Town Hall might be considered a location as they have a kitchen if we need it.

Round Table

Abigail: On May 20th the Prudence Crandall and DCF Domestic Violence unit will offer a presentation on services available in town.

Pam: Kindergarten screening will take place in May. June will be Orientation for Kindergarteners.

Siobhan: The Preschool is building its list for next year. Great progress has been made this year.

John: May 4th is a budget referendum. Please submit any flyers and info on specific events to John so he can share at the Town Council meetings.

Hildie: Hildie has recently done some subbing in the Special Education Apple class and was very impressed with what Plymouth offers students. Please consider making a nomination for a Plymouth Volunteer of the Year. This is sponsored by the Republican Town Committee (not a partisan event) and nominations are due on May 25th.

Donna O: United Way's Day of Caring is May 21st. Let Donna know if you have time to volunteer. There are events in all four towns. Seniors are placing doorknob notices about 211 on April 22nd. Donna also advised people to be aware that children who aren't able to sit still they might need an eye exam.

Rosemary: T.P. (Thomaston/Plymouth) Girl Scouts are very active. Camping, trips, and group sessions are just some of the many choices for girls. There will be a registration event in June at the Library.

Donna K: On April 20th, Marian Wright Edelman, the President of the Children Defense Fund, will be speaking in Hartford. Gwen Samuels, a Meriden Mom, won a trip to Washington to speak on parent issues. The May 12th workshop at the School for Young Children still has openings available.

Faye: Lori B., Abigail E., Peggy W., Faye J., and Donna K., bowled in the Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser representing PECC...they raised over \$750. Great Job!

* West Hartford's Representative Beth Bye stated this statistic on John Dankosky's 'Where We Live' (NPR) on April 12, 2010. She mentioned this was in a report from the CT Department of Developmental Services.