

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes

The Copper Country Great Start Collaborative Board met in regular session Thursday, April 7, 2011 at Noon at the Copper Country ISD. Director, Emilie Krznarich, chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairperson, Eva Hatfield, and called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Heather Store, Parent Liaison, served as secretary in Jean Ballone's absence.

Members present were: Emilie Krznarich, Scott Ala, Lynn Barrette, Heather Store, Katrina Carlson, Deb Dupras, Lisa Schmierer, Cheryl Mills, Taryn Mack, Renee Marion and Brenda Kamppinen.

A motion was made by Scott and approved by Lynn to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Emilie reported on the visit from Karen Ray. She said Ms. Ray emphasized establishing good communication among agencies; collaboration to improve the chances of our community receiving future grants, different approaches to seeking funding, need for more transparency among agencies. Ray also emphasized the need to create Memorandums of Understanding with each GSC member organization's Board. This item will be tabled until late summer to allow the Collaborative to focus on fundraising for the \$100,000 grant our GSC has received to add three-year-old pre-school slots in our area. It is the hope to have MOAs established by October.

Heather Poll, a parent member of the Great Start Parent Coalition, attended the meeting to update the collaborative about the upcoming Star Power Walk taking place May 19 from Hancock to Houghton. She has taken the responsibility of planning the event. She talked about progress made so far in reserving spaces, informing law enforcement, activity planning and volunteer recruitment. She passed around a sign-up sheet requesting volunteers from the GSC Board.

Emilie announced an up-coming Advocacy Workshop being offered to us on April 26th through ECIC and invited everyone to attend. She stated that the day-long workshop is for anyone from any agency. She said it's not just for early childhood agencies. She also offered that the training could be valuable to others especially in light of the current state and federal budget picture for service providers.

Discussion took place regarding the Early Childhood Grant received by our GSC. Emilie stated that establishing additional 3-year-old preschool slots is a goal identified through our strategic planning process. She reported that the fund raising process is in the "silent stage." Plans moving forward are to rely on individual's personal contacts to solicit funds for the match money. Letters are ready to be mailed, brochure is being updated. Pledge cards were handed out. It was reported that BHK and Little Huskies have each pledged \$5,000 to the project. Emilie asked GSC members to please make a personal contribution of an amount meaningful to him/her, and to help provide names of possible

donors. It was requested that the names be submitted by April 22 via email to Emilie. GSC members were invited to join the fund-raising team. Emilie stated that hand-written thank you notes will be sent following donations, there will be public acknowledgements and a list of donors included on the GSC web site.

Emilie announced that the current Parent Survey is ready to go. Pat's Foods has once again donated three gift cards @ \$20. The GSC will also purchase three cards. Two names of parents who have filled-out the survey will be randomly chosen to receive the cards from each area of our Collaborative.

Cheryl Mills announced that BHK's Even Start grant has ended. This is a state-funded project. She went on to say that any future opportunities for literacy activities will be dependent upon the federal budget.

The next meeting will be held at noon on June 2nd at the ISD.