



Parent Coalition Meeting Minutes

5/28/09

- **Parents Present:** T. Shoemaker, J. Pagel, L. Rodlund, E. Rising, K. Columbus, K. Barber, M. Matthews, K. Kominek, H. Perez, K. Kaszebski
Staff: H. Rawlings, M. Gross
ECIC: C. Barber
- **Star Power 2009**
 - Overview – Sunflowers were made from the handprints of local children in Lenawee County. They were displayed at the grounds of the old courthouse in Adrian and in Tecumseh at Adams Park. Sunflowers were also given to Representative Dudley Spade and State Senator Cameron Brown.
 - Feedback from parents that attended Star Power – all the parents that attended Star Power that attended the meeting expressed what a great event Star Power was. A survey the first of June will be given to all of those that attended from Lenawee County.
 - Feedback from ECIC – Cherie discussed how there were over 1500 participants. It was the largest rally which included children. The ECIC is happy with the impact the rally had and the amount of excitement that was in the air.
- **Parent Coalition Talk Time** – This was the first time this part was added to the agenda, but the results were great.
 - It was expressed by more than one parent how great the LISD has been to them and their families. Someone said “without the LISD they would be bald from pulling their hair out.”
 - Parents discussed how they would like more information on school readiness and some guidance on what they should be working with their children on from the ages of 0-5.
 - Since there is a lack of Lenawee Child Playgroups throughout the county, it was discussed how crowded especially the one in Madison is becoming. The parents stated how important having Lenawee Child playgroups would be in each school district.
 - The lack of low cost preschool in Lenawee County.
- **Work Groups** – *Parents broke out into two groups and reported back to the group as a whole after 25 minutes.*

Membership Workgroup - *This group discussed ways in which to increase membership in the Parent Coalition.*

Continue to utilize existing activities going around the county to bring awareness to the Lenawee Great Start Parent Coalition.

- Faith based summer activities – coalition members are to help with getting dates and contact information for upcoming events.
- Morenci – Town and Country Festival – June 26,27,28
- River Raisin Festival Blissfield– July 10,11, 12
- Tecumseh Market Days & Pet Parade – July 31 & August 1
- Lenawee County Fair - July 26-August 1
- Christian Family Centre-Annual Family Celebration Day - August 1
- Bean Creek Festival – September 11, 12, 13
- Family Fun!! Art-A-Licious Festival – September 18 & 19
- Clinton Fall Festival – September 25, 26, 27
- Appleumpkin Festival – October 10, 11

If you know of events that are going on and are not on the list above, please email hrawlings@verizon.net so they can be put on our calendar.

The Parent Coalition would like to host an activity in the fall to bring awareness to the importance of Early Childhood. – idea (fun walk)

It was discussed that parent coalition members participating in meetings will receive a membership kit: (this would include)

- Background information on Great Start and the ECIC
- Roles of the parent coalition member
- Roster of members
- Overview of Star Power – Pics
- Highlights of statistics of the 0-5 population

Advocacy Workgroup– M. Gross gave the workgroup a box containing envelopes, note cards, talking points and pens to begin contacting local, state and federal representatives about the importance of investing in Early Childhood.

- K. Barber of the coalition will be in charge of having members sign up to write letters to the editor for the next six months. All letters written to the editor should be forwarded to hrawlings@verizon.net to have proofed before sent to the local papers.
- Follow-up from Star Power – A press release will be sent to local papers and a letter to the editor as well in the upcoming weeks.
- The group discussed the importance of making sure that the coalition consistently writes letters to state representatives so that they keep Lenawee Great Start fresh in their minds.

➤ **Brainstorm meeting places for June, July and August**

It was discussed to hold the meetings at local fenced in parks for the summer. If we can continue meeting at the LISD Tech Center that would be great. Heidi will check with Heidi Cagle or Ryan Rowe from the LISD Tech Center.

****Notice of upcoming meetings for the summer will be sent out soon.

➤ **Adjourn**