

## **Middletown School Readiness Council**

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Wilbert Snow School

299 Wadsworth Street, Middletown

**Members Present:** Betsy Morgan, Christine Fahey, Sheila Daniels, Wendy Berlind, Maureen Partyka, Monica Beylea, Beverly Lawrence, Mayor Seb Giuliano, Superintendent of Schools Michael Frechette, Ann Perzan, Katie Pierini, Jim Gaudreau, Kitty Robinson, Cliff O’Callahan, Ed Bonilla, Steve Gaarder, Alice Ellovich, Krystal Ndukwu, and Donna Marino. David Nee, Carmen Siberon, and Malwin Davila from the Graustein Memorial Fund; Maggie Adair from CT Association of Human Services; Carrie Carson from CT Voices; Jessica Ciparelli from CT Early Childhood Alliance; and Dr. Elizabeth Northrop were also in attendance.

**I. Welcome & Call to Order:** Betsy Morgan opened the meeting at 1:04 P.M. welcoming all those present. Introductions were made.

**II. Unveiling of Middletown’s Early Childhood Plan:** by Betsy with the reminder to those present that this plan was completed and submitted at the end of June. These “fancy copies” distributed today will also go to the other participants of the plan, funders and future funders and will be sent out electronically. Betsy noted that the work done on this plan was through the efforts of the three collaborative groups (The Coalition for Children, School Readiness Council and Opportunity Knocks) along with 76 community members that participated in community conversations with Beverly Lawrence and Marilyn Dunkley. She also noted that this document brings into focus the great deal of work done over the last 15 years on early childhood issues. New areas of focus include pre-natal to 3, family support and early/family literacy. Discussion followed.

Remarks were made by David Nee, Mayor Giuliano and Dr. Frechette.

Donna Marino distributed a flyer announcing an upcoming press conference featuring Senator Tom Gaffey in support of the Parent Trust Fund that is currently in the Governor’s deficit mitigation plan. The event will be held on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at the Middletown Adult Education Building, Main Street. Chris noted there are numerous cuts related to children and education being proposed. She will keep the Council updated as plans for events to support these programs unfold.

**III. Swearing in School Readiness Council Members:** Mayor Giuliano performed the swearing in ceremony for the following: Monica Beylea, Beverly Lawrence, Ann Perzan, Katie Pierini, Jim Gaudreau, Cliff O’Callahan, Ed Bonilla, Steve Gaarder, Alice Ellovich, and Krystal Ndukwu.

**IV. Conversation with David Nee and Carmen Siberon from the Graustein Memorial Fund:** Discussion took place regarding Middletown’s early childhood plan, in particular, the pros and cons of a single vs. multiple early childhood collaboratives. A question was raised about the future of regional Discovery grants. Discussion was held about the state budget crisis now and in the future and how this may effect early childhood efforts statewide.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 P.M. with thanks to all in attendance.

The next meeting of the School Readiness Council  
will take place on  
**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
at  
Snow School  
from 12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.  
(Lunch will be served)

Respectfully Submitted by: Sheila Daniels