

## Sandwich Partnership for Families

Council Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2012

Attendance: Mr. Parsons-Sandwich Library, Lauren Melillo-Sandwich Partnership for Families, Valerie Pererra Brown- Cape Cod WIC, Vicky Dauphinais- SPF Coordinator, Christina Hallas- Sandwich Public Schools, Sarah Mason-Parent, Kathy Hazleton-Cape Cod Healthy Families, Krista Mevoli- Parent Rep., Laura Almas and Sue Murphy-Sandwich Partnership

7:08 pm meeting called to order

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Lauren gave an update on the success of recent programs. It was noted that the Heritage Museum and Gardens program and the Scarecrow Story Hike were huge!!! However, the Pie Auction seems to be smaller in attendance. The bake sale at the event was actually better attended. There was a discussion on the current and future of Oak Crest Cove activities. Krista Mevoli raised the question of integrating the siblings into the program, thinking this might produce a bigger turn out. Lauren said that she had been thinking of having Chris and Melissa working together in January. Mention of the upcoming Holiday Greens event for Mummies led to a discussion on possible programs for other family members and the elderly in town. Lauren mentioned that massage for infants on the weekend might be a way to involve the very young. Krista was wondering about adopt a grandparent to provide something for the elderly. A discussion ensued on how to help parents and the elderly in town.

3. Mr. Parsons provided us with information on the “Help’m Grow and Let’m Go” Turtle event at the Library. He was preparing the aquarium for the libraries new arrivals. Last year they had two diamond back turtles that they raised and let go in June to their natural habitat the salt marsh. The library has a Special State permit to be able to have the turtles. The event will begin with a party in the New Year to welcome the New turtles and name them. Since they grow from about quarter size to about softball size, the library will have a chart to follow their progress along with growth charts for the kids to chart their own growth. The event will conclude in June with a Bon Voyage party.

4. After a discussion of the recent trend in the use of Social Media for business it was decided that it was of the utmost importance to have a Social Media Policy.

5. If anyone knows of a business that might like to give a donation to our Welcome Baby Bags that would be great. We would need about 24 items. The Guest Reader Program at the Discovery Center worked well. Having local preschool teachers come to be guest readers gives parents an opportunity to meet them and see them interact with the kids before choosing a placement for their kids.

6. Planning for FY13: Some of the programs that were discussed were: A Lego Club for tweens, Parent Café for multi age group, Parent group or branch of Sandwich Partnership, Way to find babysitters

In discussing the Parent Group of Sandwich Partnership, Lauren said she thought it would be a way to give back to the Community and that the group should evolve from the parents. Someone suggested that providing child care might be a good idea. Times to meet were discussed.

Sarah mentioned that the Sandwich Mother's Club was thinking of making a book, "The Best of Sandwich" for new moms in town and this might be something to add to a Welcome Bag. Lauren thought that the Sandwich Chamber or Realtors might be interested in that project.

There will be a STEM conference in April in Harwich to discuss STEM for preschool.

Wellness Day is March 23<sup>rd</sup> this year and Lauren wants Huge Community Support.

7. Report on Grants: Will know the status of the two that are pending in a couple of weeks.

Meeting closed at 8:20

Next Meeting Wednesday January 30, 2013, 4:30