

Next meeting June 18, 2013
Early Childhood Literacy Coalition
Minutes
East Lansing Public Library
May 21, 2013

Present: Thais Rousseau, CADL; Deb Hill, Karen Woodman, CACS Head Start; Ronda Rucker, Eaton Great Start Collaborative; Mary Jo Gallagher, East Lansing Public Library; Beany Tomber, WKAR. Guests: Paul Harmon, Jeremiah Rivera, First Book, Lansing Area

Minutes of the April 2013 meeting were available for review.

First Book, Lansing Area

Paul Harmon and Jeremiah Rivera were introduced. They organized a Lansing Area chapter of the national First Book in October 2012 and have a board of 5, composed of young professionals and MSU students. (There are also chapters at U.of Mich. and Central Mich. U.) Their goal was to raise \$10,000 to distribute locally and they have already raised \$5,000. They are eager to connect with literacy groups in the Lansing area and are soliciting grant applications. The first round of grants will start in June and continue through middle or late July. Nonprofit agencies who serve children 3-10 years old are eligible to apply for the local grants. Paul and Jeremiah encouraged all those present who were not already registered with First Book to do so.

If you have questions, you can get in touch with either of them at the following email addresses. They will also be sending a representative from their board to the Coalition meetings. harmonp@michigan.gov; JeremiahRRivera@gmail.com.

Selection of new chairperson

Using the email sent by Becky LeBoeuf as a guide, members had an open and productive discussion of where they would like to see the Coalition go in the next few years

Members discussed whether they wanted to expand activities and do more than the Literacy weeks' events. They discussed whether there was a void to be filled and whether they wanted more of a media presence. (There is a Coalition Facebook now.) There was agreement that all were already involved in many other activities through their agencies and communities and additional initiatives should not be added to the Coalition's yearly agenda.

The mission statement in the Coalition brochure was reviewed and it was agreed that it still reflected its goals. (See below)

- To create awareness of early childhood literacy and what it is.
- To promote collaboration between libraries, schools, early childhood care and education providers and other agencies.

- To increase literacy in the homes of birth to 5 year olds by providing them with the tools to accomplish this.

Ronda Rucker announced that she had talked with Karen Black and they would co-chair the Coalition for a limited term of two years. Mindy Schafer has already offered to be the secretary. The offer was accepted with great enthusiasm by all present. They will officially take over at the June meeting. Beany Tomber will do the minutes for this meeting and help to transition the leadership over the next month.

The following suggestions were made for the new co-chairs to consider at future meetings: that members would like to share more about what each agency does at meetings; that we recruit more Coalition members such as First Book, LCC, MSU Extension, MSU Lab School, other libraries in Clinton and Eaton Counties, student interns, parents, and Olivet College.

Dates for 2014 Literacy events

The weeks of March 9-21 with a large event March 16 were selected.

The next meeting will be June 18, same time and place. There will be no meetings in July and August. The date for the September meeting will be set at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.