

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2019 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Kent ISD Transition Center – Multipurpose Room

Attendees: Joann Hoganson, Christina Pocklington, Jacque Viol, Jennifer Cottingham, Liz Sterling, Anissa Eddie, Tina Collins, Tara Givamna, Reyna Garcia, MaDonna Princer, Linda Pickett, Alejandra Meza, Kristyn Bomberg, Nicole Burman, Kristin Gietzen, Kailey Cline, Alyssa Bryan, Olga York, Cara Sutcliffe, Karen Lezan, Ashley Karsten, Paul Haan, Alyce Hernandez, Iris Gipson, Yolanda Johnson, Sarah Wilson, Judy Freeman, Gayle Orange, Lisa Ellison, Frank Florido, Heather Boswell, Peter Carino, Summer Wright, Annastashia Flores, Mike Nassar, Joslyn Ward, Elizabeth Zandstra, Carol Paine-McGovern, Lynnae Pickens, Claire Titcombe, Anthony Quinn, Mandi Rycenga,

Staff: Tomarra Richardson, Jessica Turk, Paula Brown, Leslie Hawkins

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Approval of the August 22, 2019 meeting notes: submit as written

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

Jessica Turk
Tomarra Richardson

- Parent Reps: Seven new representatives have been added to the GSC. Volunteers helped put together 2600 bags for Success Basics. Thank you to all who helped!
- WGVU By Leaps and Bounds: Last three radio spots aired in October. Click [here](#) to listen to the spots.
- Diaper Drive: Nestlings annual drive raised 18,017 diapers for Kent County! A \$5000 grant from Meijer was received with an accompanying 4500 diapers received from Kimberly Clark.
- Trusted Advisors: Parent Support Stations have expanded across the county for the course of the grant. Parent Cafes and Coalition meetings are being offered in Spanish for the Latinx Community. Eight parent reps are helping push the work of all three initiatives out into the community. Parent Rep, Reyna Garcia, has been highly involved with the offerings for the Latinx Community. 28 parents attended our first Coalition meeting. The goal was to have 10. We are so thankful for Reyna's passion and dedication to this important work. Thank you, Reyna!
- COFI literacy event: 300 plus adults and children attended. The event was great and very well received. The leadership group is already talking about making it a yearly event. January 2020 a second COFI cohort will be kicking off. Parents from across the community will be invited to attend.

- **First Steps Update**

Heather Boswell

The RFP's for the second round of millage funds has been released. The three RFP's are for:

- Home Visiting and Healthy Development
- Healthy and Safe Home Programming
- Play and Learn Communities.

Click on [Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage](#) to see the detailed RFP's and accompanying documents. Formal process to submit questions listed on site.

- **Preschool Development Block Grant Birth-5 Listening Session**

Group Discussion

- **GSC Updates**

**Paula Brown
Maureen Hale**

OGS/MDE gave the final FY20 budget total last week. Paula is working on the detailed budget. We will review with the Executive Team and go over it at the December meeting. We received a 17% decrease from last year.

- **Partner Announcements**

- Trick or Treating is available at the Grand Rapid's Children's Museum this Thursday <https://www.grcm.org/events>
- Bright Beginning received a blue-ribbon accreditation, congratulations!
- Next Tuesday School of Choice Expo at Gerald R Ford School
- Last week in November Play and Learn groups start at GRPL. Some will be offered in the evening some during the day.
- CTC is offering an evening play group with Jan Wilks
- Literacy Center Request for Presentations is open till November 18th for the Community Literacy Summit on February 28th, 2020. <https://literacycenterwm.org/events/annual-events/community-literacy-summit-ready-to-read-ready-to-succeed>