

Lights ON for Learning Community Learning Centers
Community Partners Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2008

Facilitator: Maxine Russman, Project Director
Present: Rock Island District # 41 Virginia Jarrett, RISD Community Coordinator
East Moline #37 LaVonne Peterson, Asst Superintendent
UTHS Fred Segura, Principal
RIROE Mary McNeil, PR
Community Partners and Guests
Al Edgeworth, RICCA
Jill Doak, City of RI
Jeff Blackwell, Black Hawk College
Dan Cortis, Augustana College
Kim Crosby, American Red Cross
Mary Ann McLeod, Bethany
Diane Baker, U of IL Extension
Dave Layton, RSVP
Marietta Castle, Literacy
Rick Conner, Youth Service Bureau

1. The November 27th, 2007, minutes were approved.

2. Beyond School Hours National Conference

A. Community Learning Centers Model

Virginia Jarrett, Judy Hipskind, and Maxine Russman attended the national conference, Beyond School Hours, sponsored by Foundations, Inc. and held in Jacksonville, Florida, from Feb 13th through the 15th. Virginia shared information she received from a session she attended about the Cincinnati Public Schools Community Learning Centers model. The Cincinnati School District employs a district-wide resource coordinator who collaborates with after school partners, recreation, higher ed, arts, health and other community resource partners. Each school site identifies a Site Resource Coordinator. This person may be an employee of one of the community partners. The goal is that every school will have a team of integrated partnerships supporting the learning occurring at that school. (Handout distributed)

B. The Role of an Advisory Council

Maxine shared info she received attending a session on building a quality community advisory council. They are some key questions that are fundamental when addressing the role of the advisory council: What is the purpose of an Advisory Council? Why would members want to serve? What will inspire someone to be part of the Council? How do keep the members connected to the real work of the organization? How can the Council help us move forward? Attending this session gave Maxine time to reflect on the Lights ON Community Partners Council and its role. Maxine suggested that at a future meeting the Council may want to revisit its role. Maxine asked the members to respond to the question of why they attend the Lights ON Community Partners Council meetings.

Following were the responses:

- To learn what other community partners are doing to enhance student learning in the community
- To learn about what the schools needs are
- To explore “what are the possibilities?”
- To network

- To obtain ideas for volunteer opportunities
- To gain knowledge of potential resources and collaborative efforts
- To contribute to the sustainability of programs

3. Lights ON Adopt-A-School

Maxine and Mary have met with Shane McDonough who is the US Army Garrison School Liaison Officer. They are working with Franklin School in Moline because this is the school where military families frequently send their children. Maxine will be following up with Shane to see if he would be willing to identify their partnership with Franklin as Adopt-A-School.

Maxine has also met with Jennifer Wynn, store manager for the Moline Starbucks Coffee. Jen has agreed to enter into an Adopt-A-School partnership with Moline's Washington Grade school. An agreement has been signed.

Identifying community partners to Adopt-A-School has been slow going. Maxine would like to engage Mary more in the process.

Council members suggested creating an "Adopt-A-School" display for a Southpark Mall kiosk and approaching Regan advertising to see if a bill board could be donated.

4. Community After School Programs

Virginia reported that she has been working on identifying after school programs that are offered in the City of Rock Island that are not located in schools. Virginia shared there are seven community-run after school programs: four located in churches, the Martin Luther King Center, Christian Friendliness, and YWCA. From the surveying she has done, there are currently no after school programs available to students living in Milan and Southwest Rock Island.

LaVonne Peterson reported there is a community-run after school program serving East Moline at the Christ United Methodist Church on 7th Street and 38th Avenue.

Virginia suggested that community-run after school programs could be invited to attend the Lights ON Community Partners Council meetings to learn about community resources available to assist them in making their programs more effective.

The Council agreed to have an ad hoc committee work on identifying all Rock Island County community-run after school programs. Diane Baker and Mary Ann McLeod agreed to work on this committee.

5. Federal Full-Service Community Schools Grant

Maxine reported that the US Dept of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement has announced the availability of federal funds for establishing full-service community schools. Approx. \$5 million dollars will be allocated to 8-15 applicants. The deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply is March 17th, and grant submission date is April 15th.

Although the chances of receiving an application are slim, Maxine is recommending write a proposal. Mary Ann McLeod, Diane Baker, and LaVonne Peterson agreed to

serve on a committee to work on writing a proposal. Maxine will also invite Sally O'Donnell to serve on the Committee.

6. Community Partners Reports

RSVP (Dave Layton) – partnering with BHC's Life/Family Literacy programs to provide literacy volunteer training on the third Friday of each month.

Bi-State Literacy Council (Dave Layton) The Bi-State Literacy Council has had a successful fundraising event. Mini-grants up to \$500 will be made available.

Youth Service Bureau (Rick Conner) is providing counseling services after school and anger management classes.

RICCA (Al Edgeworth) offers the Too Good for Drugs program for grades K-12; Project Alert is for middle school students; they are involved in an after school program at Second Baptist Church and during the school day for Jordan in RI and Our Lady of Grace in East Moline.

City of Rock Island (Jill Doak) Two neighborhood partners hosted public forums for the school referendum. RI Neighborhood E-News is up and running and includes info about what is happening in RI schools.

Augustana College (Dan Corts) Partnership with Longfellow School is progressing well.

Bethany (Mary Ann McLeod) Providing Survival Skills program for girls at Edison Jr. High in RI and Boys to Men for male students; those students with 80% attendance will be taking a field trip to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield.

U of Illinois Extension (Diane Baker) the University of Nebraska is researching technology and youth development. As part of their study 50 youth and adults from the Northwest Region of Illinois may apply to participate in a 2008 summer camp at Gretna, NE in June. Info was distributed. Diane also shared info on the Science Special Interest Group, new Teen Programs, and Reality World Camp.

BHC Literacy (Jeff Blackwell) has received a Trinity Health System grant. The Shifting Gears grant is assisting adults in obtaining their GED and skills in packaging/distribution.

American Red Cross (Kim Crosby) sponsors an Americorp Club at UTHS where students do service projects and funding raising.

Rock Island School District (Virginia Jarrett) has received a grant to assist twenty families with health needs.

7. Next Meeting

The next Lights ON for Learning Community Partners Council is scheduled for Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 12:30 at the RIROE.