

**Lights ON for Learning Community Learning Centers
Community Partners Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 27, 2007**

Facilitator: Maxine Russman, Project Director
Present: Rock Island District # 41 Virginia Jarrett, RISD Community Coordinator
East Moline #37 LaVonne Peterson, Asst Superintendent
RIROE Mary McNeil, PR
Community Partners and Guests
Louis Hare, RICCA Sally O'Donnell, Health Link
Jill Doak, City of RI Diane Baker, U of IL Extension
Jeff Blackwell, Black Hawk College Alan Anderson, IEBW
Dan Corts, Augustana College Marietta Castle, Literacy

1. The September 25th, 2007, minutes were approved.

2. Public Relations

Mary McNeil reported that the following articles were published:

9/23/07	Creating Community-School Partnerships	Argus/Dispatch
10/19/07	So You Want to be a Rock Star editorial	Argus/Dispatch
11/17/07	Tuskegee Airmen preach perseverance	Argus/Dispatch
	Two of the WWII black aviators spoke to schools in Davenport and the RI Intermediate Academy	

3. Adopt-a-School Initiative

Documents distributed: Lights ON Adopt-A-School brochure
List of School/Business Partnerships
Lights ON Adopt-A-School Participation Agreement form
Moline/East Moline Lights ON schools & possible partners

Maxine announced that the RI Optimist Club has adopted Eugene Field School. Virginia Jarrett recruited the organization. They are scheduled to meet with the principal and organization's contact person, Bret Hitchcock.

Virginia and Maxine also met with Cheri Bustos, Marketing Director for Trinity Health System. Trinity has decided to focus on their partnership with Horace Mann and will assist in identifying a new business partner for Earl Hanson School.

Maxine has contacted both the Moline and East Moline economic developments to acquire information on the top ten employers and top ten sales tax generators for each community. She is expecting the information within the next couple of days.

A letter regarding the expansion of Lights ON Adopt-A-School to the East Moline and Moline Lights ON schools was sent by Joe Vermeire in mid-October along with the brochure. Maxine made follow-up calls to the principals asking if they were interested in a business partnership and if they are currently working with a business. The Council reviewed the list and offered additional suggestions.

Next Steps:

- Maxine will contact 3-4 business contact persons suggested by the principals
- Mary agreed to speak to some business people she knows
- When 3-4 commitments are made, a press conference will be scheduled (January)
- Letters will be sent from Joe to identified businesses/organizations inviting them to a luncheon (Johnny's Steakhouse was suggested); RI business reps will be invited to present (late January)

4. Community Partner Sharing

Health Link (Sally O'Donnell) – providing flu shots and mists at their Silvis and Rock Island locations; Received an anonymous donation of \$15,000 to provide dental services; the need for dental services is great; very few resources available

Literacy – (Marrietta Castle) Marrietta presented tutoring reading tips to the Adopt-A-School training provided for the RI business employees in September. She has developed a Tutoring Reading Handbook. Contact her if you would like an electronic copy.

Red Cross (Kim Crosby) – Offering health and safety classes for students including Hand washing and Fire Safety.

Augustana (Dan Cortis) – Education department is working with Longfellow School in Rock Island.

University of Illinois Extension (Diane Baker) – A Youth Development Academy for front-line adult workers is scheduled for December 13th. They are working on a Science and Robotics curriculum. www.extension.uiuc.edu/rockisland

City of Rock Island and RI Neighborhood Partners (Jill Doak) – There are several churches in Rock Island that offer after school programs; Jill suggested that information Virginia shared at these meetings be shared with this Lights ON Partners group. Virginia Jarrett reported that she recently had a meeting with the Rock Island community and churches after school program coordinators. She will provide a list of programs and contact names.

Black Hawk College Family Literacy (Jeff Blackwell) – Even Start funding for East Moline ends in June, 2008. Even Start is a federal grant for preschoolers and parents offering parent/child education programs. These programs have been very successful.

RICCA (Louis Hare) – Programs have been offered at Glenview Middle, John Deere Middle, Eagle Ridge, Aledo, Westmer, and Sherrard schools. They can offer sessions from 30 mins to an hour for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Trades (Alan Anderson) – Apprenticeship coordinators work with high schools to educate students in the construction trades. They also participate in the Eight Grade Career Day held at the Mark. This event is co-sponsored by Black Hawk Colleges Tech Prep and Gender Equity grants.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lights ON for Learning Community Partners is Tuesday, February 26th, 2008, 12:30 p.m.