

Lights ON for Learning Community Learning Centers
Community Partners Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Facilitator: Maxine Russman, Project Director
Present: Rock Island District # 41
Virginia Jarrett, RISD Community Schools
Moline District #40
Faith Carter, Lincoln-Irving Principal
Scott Verstraette, Moline Alt HS
East Moline #37
LaVonne Peterson, Asst Superintendent

RIROE
Joe Vermeire, Regional Sup
Jim Widdop, Asst Regional Sup
Mary McNeil, PR

Community Partners and Guests

Louis Hare, RICCA
Jill Doak, City of RI
Jeff Blackwell, Black Hawk College
Dave Layton, RSVP
Dan Corts, Augustana College

Sally O'Donnell, Health Link
Carol Murphy, Boys & Girls Clubs
Sharon Garbett, Technology Now

Joe welcomed everyone for the start of the seventh year of the Lights ON for Learning network and expressed appreciation to the education and community partners who have supported this after school and community schools mission.

1. The April 24, 2007, minutes were approved.

2. Update on 21st CCLC Grants

Over the past six years, 19 RI county schools have received 21st CCLC grant funds to provide programs and services beyond regular school hours and must include some partnerships with community partners. For the 2007-08 school year, Maxine reported that there are four schools receiving 21st CCLC grant funds. They include:

Rock Island High School and UTHS – fifth and final year of grant

Edison Jr. High – fourth year of a five-year grant

RI Intermediate Academy – first year of a five-year grant

3. Adopt-a-School Initiative

Maxine reported that since its beginning, the Lights ON network has focused on developing relationships between schools and community partners whose missions have included providing programs and services to school-age youth and their families. Lights ON schools have benefited greatly from these partnerships; all who are part of this Council have continued after the completion of 21st CCLC grant funds.

The RIROE recently has assumed the leadership of the Rock Island School District's Adopt-A-School program. These are partnerships between schools and entities whose missions do NOT include providing programs and services to youth. This eight-year program was begun and lead by Modern Woodmen of America who helped to establish relationships between nine RI elementary schools and various RI businesses. This past spring, Modern Woodmen informed the RI school district that they could no longer facilitate the program. Because the RIROE's Lights ON for Learning "community

schools” mission, the ROE approached Rick Loy if the ROE could incorporate Adopt-A-School into Lights ON Network and he agreed. One of our primary reasons for doing this is to continue the valuable connections that have been made between the RI schools and their business partners AND to expand the program to other RI County school districts beginning with the Lights ON schools in East Moline and Moline. The role of the RIROE would be to:

- promote the Adopt-A-School initiative as part of the Lights ON for Learning community schools Network and recruit businesses
- engage the Lights ON Community Partners Council members in the process of identifying businesses for the program
- facilitate the matching of schools to businesses and provide a forum for developing relationships
- provide tools to assist in communication and implementation of the program
- provide school volunteer training of Adopt-A-School business employees
- provide finger printing and background checks of volunteer business employees

Maxine stated that she would like to see most of the East Moline and Moline Lights ON schools will have a business “match” by the beginning of the second semester or, at least, by the end of the school year. Perhaps an Adopt-A-School employee training session could be scheduled for mid-January, 2008.

4. Suggestions for Adopt-a-School Partners

Maxine stated that the RIROE would greatly appreciate suggestions of possible businesses to be considered for East Moline and Moline Adopt-A-School partners.

It was suggested to contact the East Moline and Moline economic development divisions and request the top 10 employers and sales tax generation. Other suggestions

- City of East Moline and Moline
- Genesis at Illini
- John Deere
- HyVee
- Target
- Kohl’s
- JC Penney’s
- Black Hawk College (including the RI location)

When recruiting businesses it is important to address “What’s in it for the business?”

Ideas generated by the Lights ON partners:

- Giving back to the community
- Demonstrates commitment to education and the betterment of the community
- Value of positive advertising
- Contributing to the future of the community
- Personal connection with students and school personnel

5. Community Partner Sharing

Black Hawk College Family Literacy (Jeff Blackwell) – programs at Lincoln-Irving and Ericsson schools in Moline; also at the East Moline and Moline libraries for parents and young children from 9:00 – 2:00

Retired Seniors Volunteer Program/RSVP (Dave Layton) – Many RSVP volunteers working in RI County schools. They are sponsoring an upcoming training session for literacy volunteers on Reading for Understanding.

Health Link (Sally O'Donnell) – providing physicals and immunizations at their Silvis and Rock Island locations. Working with the Intermediate Academy.

Technology Now (Sharon Garbett) – providing computer skills training for Rock Island High School special education students

Boys & Girls Clubs (Carol Murphy) – Sponsors Lunch Buddies program for some of the Moline Schools. Because the Club is located on 5th Avenue near Ericsson School, they have a close relationship with the school. They plan to schedule monthly Teen Nights.

RICCA (Louis Hare) – Has five Prevention Specialists who offer classes in schools when requested. They have a program for 5th-6th grade students called Too Good for Drugs. RICCA staff meets with students over an eleven week period, 1 – 2 times a week. They also provide “booster” sessions for 7th and 8th graders. They are working with Glenview Middle and John Deere Middle.

RI Neighborhood Partners (Jill Doak) – The City of RI coordinates the Neighborhood Partners Group. They supported eight forums for RI citizens discussing the future of RI schools. The Greenbush Neighborhood is working on developing a Shelters of Safety (SOS) network. These would be RI businesses where youth could seek refuge if their safety was being threatened.

Augustana College (Dan Corts) – Chuck Hyser, Education Department Chair, has been working with RI School District and Longfellow school to enhance the role of Augie education students in the Longfellow school.

6. Public Relations (Mary McNeil)

Mary shared the following articles that she wrote and were published in the Dispatch/Argus

- RI's Intermediate Academy Wins Grant (6/30/07)
- School is Starting – Watch Out for Students (8/6/2007)
- Lights ON Shines by Helping Kids (8/14/2007)
- Creating Community-School Partnerships (9/23/2007)

Mary is working on scheduling a meeting with the Editorial Board about Lights ON Adopt-A-School. Reps from RI businesses will be asked to participate.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lights ON for Learning Community Partners is Tuesday, November 27th, 2007, 12:30 p.m.