



**Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The Landings, Blue Awning, Room 101, Sarasota
Monday, November 16, 2009**

10:00

MINUTES

ATTENDEES		
Kathleen Sullivan	Mary Wolf	Claudia Malecki
Dianne Lawrence	Marjorie Fondacaro	Janet Kahn
Valerie Walton	Elma McKay	Yvette Robison
Wendy Harris	Jill Jacoby	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Kathleen Sullivan and she welcomed everyone. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from 10/26/09.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Conference Planning:

Key Note Speaker: This is still to be determined. Kathleen stated that she is aware of some problems getting in touch with Nate Jacobs. Elma is still working on this.

Janet Kahn has met with the Arts Council and their members are very excited to participate. Some members would like to have displays and brochures available for participants. Two or three people have already submitted something for sessions including: Art therapy with behavior problems, dance and painting. Others needed help with session ideas and Mary and Janet have a follow up meeting with the Council on 12/3/09. Janet also reported that she has spoken with the education task force which is very interested in working with us and possibly have exhibits at the conference.

Kathleen stated that at a recent Montessori conference she attended a Peace Education Training and gave this as a suggestion for a session for a breakout she and one of her students could present at the conference, which would then remove her from presenting a poetry breakout. Yvette stated there is a need to foster a relationship with the Arts for the School and we should look at how to tie transitions from preschool into elementary school.

The committee discussed having an interactive table with clay on it so attendees could spend time playing. Dianne will check in the resource room for handouts and dvds on this topic.

Pineview update: Mary and Kathleen toured the school last Friday. The auditorium can hold 600 and the cafeteria is next to the auditorium and is very large also. The classrooms look like they will hold approximately 20-25 people per session.

Sessions: Members discussed having more than one session on art. Other topic ideas so far include:

- art therapy
- painting
- “start the arts” with Lisa Allen
- Claudia is following up on the drummer
- Sculpture- 3 dimensional- Elma suggested Head Start worker Tom and will look into this
- Barb Zier has let the Coalition know she has a teacher that is interested in presenting
- Susan Slack
- Preschool drum hour- Jill to follow up on this
- Les & Ken
- Music with Mare
- Rae Pica
- Mr. Worth for singing - Jill to follow up on this

Janet suggested having 2 closing sessions one for Infant & Toddlers and one for Preschoolers. Committee members discussed this option.

Claudia suggested having a third break out session after lunch and possibly changing all sessions to one hour each. The committee discussed this option. This 3rd break out could use the time to show attendees how to link everything back into the classroom. It was also discussed to have fewer sessions in the 3rd breakout with larger groups.

The committee also discussed the participant binders and since they will probably have less information from the presenters there should be more articles on bringing the arts back into the classroom.

Conference Planning Notes from September and October

Speaker/session ideas

- Possible keynote:
 - **Nate Jacobs from the Westcoast Theatre group – *new suggestion, Elma will follow up***
 - Jean Feldman: was at the ECA conference and works with finger plays and songs
 - Pam Phelps: with the BCCT curriculum, hands-on, interactive, power of play and self-expression while supporting performance standards
 - Suzanne Gellens, tie brain development to activities that support hands on exploration, investigation, and self-expression
- Possible presenters:
 - Local high school art, drama teachers
 - Local resources, i.e. Ringling, Arts Council, Van Wezel, Florida West Coast Theatre Troup
 - Explore other community resources
 - Panel discussions to explore value and implications of this approach
 - Have directors and teachers that incorporate art into their centers already do presentations

- Possible breakout topics:

New discussions:

- **Have each session tie into the Standards**
- **Tie “power of play” into each session and overall theme**
- **Dr. Drew: using blocks and self expression**
- **Poetry – Kathleen**

From 9-28-09 meeting:

- Study the power of play; why it is so important, and noting that this approach is supported by research
- Workshop to explore teachers’ relationship to the arts, “What do I do for self-expression?” - this can include a broad range - scrapbooking, gardening, music, etc. and how to bring that into classroom
- Offering teachers exposure to what they may not have taken in college courses
- How to share art with children and encourage them to create their own, look at how art can be incorporated into all components of the classroom
- Field trip possibility: ***Make a Hand out- Jackie volunteered to work on this.***
- Using clay in the classroom
- Drama for preschool and what social emotional skills children gain from dramatic play
- Dance and movement as a core curriculum element, why this is important
- Music
- Power of blocks as an avenue of self-expression and architecture
- Cooking
- Story telling
- Joy of the natural world/gardening
- Photography
- Have classes on specific kinds of art
- Scientific inquiry can also be means of self-expression
- Tie into resiliency and taking care of yourself

Have a brief introduction before the keynote touching on the points below to frame the theme of “self-expression” as it is implemented in the classroom:

- **Allowing children to be creative and express themselves requires adults taking the time to understand what children are trying to accomplish – encouraging creativity may mean extending center/free play times**
- **Answer the charge that “creativity and standards don’t always go together”:** how to get the message out that arts support the standards, how to achieve a balance
- **How to address the fear that supporting self-expression will result in loss of control and chaos**
- **How not to hinder children’s self expression; what are the barriers to self expression**

- Possible conference set up

New Discussions:

- **Provide everyone with a journal to self reflect**
- **Use a reflection box to pull from for door prizes**
- **Use the last 5 minutes of each session to reflect on what is learned and record in the journal**
- **Have a poetry table for anyone to write a poem**

- **Have the Standards on posters hung all around showing how creative arts and self-expression can support skills in the Standards**
- **Have materials available on the table at breakfast and lunch for attendees to express a thought through drawing or writing**

From 9-28-09 meeting:

- Music playing as you come into the conference
- Easels set up around rooms
- Big mural to be created as the day goes on by participants - *Claudia*
- Include statements by professionals in our community about what they learned in preschool – what are the vivid memories of preschool
- Recreate children’s centers for adults
- End each session with a discussion of perceived barriers
- Have displays of art in various media

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

Creative Curriculum training is to begin in January. There are currently two dates that conflict with the Director’s connection meetings and Kathleen will be checking on these for possible alternative dates.

Announcements:

5. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting set for December 14th at 10:00 at Pine View (this was determined after the committee meeting in November).. Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Submitted by Valerie Walton