The Parent Council met at 12:30 p.m. on January 4, 2007 in Skutt Student Center room 105. In attendance were Zahra Alghafli, Meredith Choquette, Amy Rummel, Lori Rusch, Connie Shonka, Tricia Sharrar, and Theresa Thurin.

Minutes: November Minutes were approved.

Chili Luncheon and Silent Auction: The auction was a success once again. A summary of the auction was distributed and details will be discussed at the PC meeting in February. The overall plan needs some serious consideration due to the fact that we continue to loose money on the lunch and fewer and fewer Moms are on campus.

Parent Education Meeting: 20- 25 parents attend the November meeting presented by Penny Gildea. The evaluations were positive. A Training Evaluation Summary was distributed. We still do not have a topic or a date for the meeting this semester. The PC will poll the parents for ideas.

Appreciation Gifts for Teachers: Just before Christmas break, $40 was given to each of the 14 staff members by the parents of the center. The left over odd dollar amount was pooled with money that was received after the deadline. This $65-$70 is being held until a decision can be made on how to use it. Several suggestions include catering a lunch for a staff meeting, adding it to the 2007 gift, or buying something for each room. Several PC members were surprised the dollar amount of the gifts was so low. They had expected that gifts would be around $100. The PC discussed other ways to earn money for gifts or letting parents do heir own thing. Connie suggested that the PC ask the teachers what they would like. The dollar amount of the gift is going to change when the make up of the children at the center changes.

Contacting new families: New members were contacted by email last semester, but no calls have been made. Connie has some additions to the list. Meredith hopes to begin making calls this month.

The Center and the University Master Plan: At the last Staff Advisory Committee meeting, Dan Burkey was asked about the future of the Center. He said the center continues to cost the university money but knows that faculty and staff would like to see it remain a part of Creighton. The PC expressed interest in meeting with consultants to formulate a business plan that could be submitted to Creighton.

Staff Update and Comments from Connie: The budget looks good, the center is full, and there is actually a waiting list for other rooms besides infants. Erin, the new assistant teacher in the toddler room, is settling right in. There will be a farewell reception for Maria on Friday the fifth. Jessica Tedore, a lead teacher in the preschool room, will be taking Maria's position. The student employees seem to be getting better and better each year. The lead teacher position in the preschool room is posted.

PC Members Comments: Communication between the center and the parents is still a problem. Some parents are not checking the website, their folders or email. The PC would like to place a bulletin board in the entryway to have a central location for newsletters and other announcements. Connie will look into the cost and installation. It will be maintained by the PC and the Center staff.

Submitted by Meredith Choquette