

James Russell Child Development Center
Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 6, 2011
Time: 4:30 – 5:30pm
Location: RCDC Kitchen
Purpose: Meeting 4, 2011/2012 year

Parent Advisory Council Leadership Team 2011/2012:

President: Kate Martens Stricklett
Co-Chairs: Erin Averett and Jessica Heller
Secretary: Mary Roy
Annual Holiday-
Bazaar Chairperson: Wendy Duerfeldt Schutte

Agenda Summary:

- Fellowship
- Announcements
- November 2011 Meeting Minutes Recap
- Budget Updates
- Project Updates
- Holiday Bazaar Updates
- Grant Sub-committee update
- Open Forum
- Guest Speaker – Teaching Literacy Through Books and Music”- Miss Laura and Miss Jessica (toddlers)

Parent Attendance:

Center History and Philosophy:

The Creighton University Child Development Center was established in 1982 to meet the childcare needs of the parent who is a student, staff, or faculty member of the University. Children ages six weeks to five years are served in an atmosphere of care and learning. The Center assists Creighton's educational mission by providing an opportunity for students to work directly with the children, and for others to observe children as an element of their course work.

The Center is committed to this three-fold mission: to serve young children, to serve their parents, and to serve the students of the Creighton community.

Announcements:

- Last toddler spot is potentially being filled
- Family survey
 - Got ~65% survey responses
 - Similar responses to last year – both positive and constructive feedback
 - Looking for some solutions/ideas on the following topics:
 - The teacher often shares information about things happening in the program and wants to know about things my child is doing at home.
 - When I disagree with how a teacher works with my child, I feel comfortable letting the teacher know and working together to find a solution that works for both of us.
- Parent Teacher Conferences

- Feb and August
- Upcoming info sessions:
 - January, kindergarten readiness
 - Parents invited to do activities in the classroom any time – please send ideas!

Budget Updates:

- In good shape for parent council and center
- Someone came from facilities to estimate the play area in the front of the center

Project Updates:

- Toddler Room Insulation Issue Update:
 - They have two different options and expect to have a decision made by end of week.
 - Katie/toddler room teachers will send email re: layers and warmer blankets
- Dishwasher did break. Working with facilities to get a viable replacement.
- Center Painting and updates:
 - Looking for parents to donate time on 12/23 to help lift things as needed as we prepare for painting.
 - Looking for parents to donate time on 12/30 as well to help move things back post-painting.

Holiday Bazaar Updates: NEXT YEAR: November 7, 2012, 11:00am – 1:00pm,

Tabled Topics:

- Grants (Mary and Wendy) - January

Guest Speaker: Laura and Jessica (Toddler Room) “Teaching Literacy through Books and Music”

Key points:

- Books:
 - Read books as early as 6 weeks
 - Feel free to add words, letters, pictures and patterns to your books to help your child
 - Use building blocks with pictures from the book to show sequence
- Music
 - Helps with vocab and writing
 - Patterns help with math and syllables
 - Finger play with songs helps with the fine motor
 - Do not be embarrassed to get involved, sing and interact with your child
 - Have music around the house
- Both are special 1:1 time