



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative
APPROVED Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

Board Members Present: Mary Jo McGuire, Jackie Turner, Tyrize Cox, Jane Eastwood, Jean O'Connell, Carol Dawson, Denise Stahura, Chris Tolbert

Guests Present: Judi Schmidt (YMCA) and Karin Abel & Allison Breininger (Minnesota Reading Corps)

Staff Present: Christa Anders and Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordinators); Mike Hagen (SPCC Fiscal Agent)

Meeting called to order by Turner at 8:25 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Dawson lit the Children's Fire by reciting a poem from Mya Angelou, *Still I Rise*.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 14, 2014 Board meeting and accept the information contained in the May update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Learn, Grow, Thrive Focus: Kindergarten Readiness

Allison Breininger and Karin Abel from Minnesota Reading Corps gave an update on their Learn, Grow, Thrive grant-funded project at twelve early learning programs across Saint Paul. They gave a sneak peek at preliminary data for SPCC-funded sites.

Judi Schmidt, Director of the Midway YMCA Early Childhood program gave an update on activities and progress on their Learn, Grow, Thrive grant project at the

Midway and Eastside YMCA early learning programs. The grant focuses on mental health issues, literacy, and family literacy.

IV. GradNation Update

The Board viewed the final video from the GradNation focus group report, [Don't Call them Dropouts](#).

Anders gave an update on the Promise Fellow project, focused on American Indian children. We have hired a Fellow for this project. She will be housed with the TIP team in St. Paul Public Schools and will start in August. She will work in coordination with the current Americorps Fellow at American Indian Magnet.

There was an update on Project Return. There was discussion of the project flowchart that has been developed by the GradNation work group. The hope is to have the employee identified and on board by August. At the legislature this year, they agreed to let MDE create an Adult Diploma program, which may also be helpful to some of the students recovered through this effort.

Attendance Awareness Month is still targeted for this fall. Staff did a focus group last week with 20 African American parents to learn more about their challenges getting their kids to school – transportation, bullying, parent work schedule, cost of uniforms, and an overall sense of parents feeling helpless – wanting someone to support them. Very consistent with what we heard in GradNation work. Staff met with Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood yesterday, and they were very insistent that this is a problem with African American and American Indian families, and the Attendance Awareness effort will be targeted based on that understanding.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- New grantees presenting on their work; organized by Learn, Grow, Thrive goals, rather than individual grantees: August focus on Safe and Free from Abuse/Neglect.
- Ramsey County Human Services regarding wraparound services
- R.T. Rybak come to talk about Generation Next Action Plans
- Kent Pekel from Search Institute– caring adults
- Parent Academy for Saint Paul Public Schools
- SPPS High School Start Time
- Ramsey Interagency Early Intervention Council – Help Me Grow

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.