

WILLIAM CASPAR GRAUSTEIN
M E M O R I A L F U N D

May 8, 2008

Janice Gruendel
Special Advisor to the Governor
28 Juniper Point Road
Branford, CT 06405

Commissioner Mark McQuillan
State Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Janice and Mark:

I support Karen Foley-Schain in respectfully requesting \$35,000 from the Cabinet (above the \$100,000 already allocated) for parent leadership development. As I understand the situation, Parent Trust Fund received in excess of \$590,000 in worthwhile proposals, but had funds on hand for a lesser amount. A Collaborative Management Team from the Cabinet, Children's Trust Fund and the Memorial Fund vetted the proposals and found that those eligible and worthwhile exceeded the available resources.



The storyteller figure symbolizes the values of the Memorial Fund—educating, supporting and inspiring our children.

You may recall that the Memorial Fund set aside \$150,000 in calendar 2007 and \$200,000 in 2008 to match additional state contributions above the Parent Trust Fund's prior base of \$250,000. We have reserved \$250,000 in 2009 for the same purpose.

Thanks to your leadership, the Cabinet allocated \$100,000 for such match last year and this year. If you and your colleagues agree to increase your share, the Memorial Fund will bring up its share in a like amount of \$35,000, which Karen assures me will make it possible to provide resources to every worthy applicant.

As we work together to increase community capacity to oversee, govern and enhance the systems for children from birth to age eight, the issue of parent leadership development becomes crucial. Deliberative bodies like School Readiness Councils, Discovery Collaboratives and Early Childhood Councils need parents at the table when local and state resources are being allocated. And none of us was born knowing how to run a meeting. As we all become better at inviting parents and residents to these bodies, we need to support them in being there through high-performance leadership development.

The programs like Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), its K-12 offspring, Parents Seeking Educational Excellence (Parents SEE), and several others are prime examples of how to use the principles of adult education to a high standard. Please also recall that results-based accountability principles and measures are being applied to PLTI and will provide useful data to enhance program effectiveness going forward.

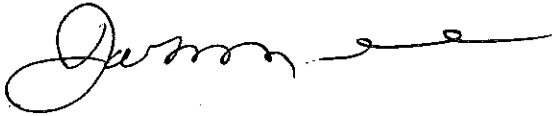
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Janice Gruendel and Commissioner Mark McQuillan

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At the Memorial Fund, we value highly the work we are doing in partnership with the State government of Connecticut. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than knowing that we have together stepped forward once more and made it possible for more parents and more communities to reap the positive benefits of parent leadership development. As we together envision and build a system that works for parents and children wherever they are, we will be glad we took the opportunity to reinforce the current expansion of School Readiness by simultaneously building up the human resources in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Nee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David M. Nee
Executive Director