

Minute 28

Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership

Place: Bethlehem Public School

Date: Tuesday 11th 2008

Time: 4:15 PM- 11:30 PM

Present:

Children (73)

Idir Representative (1)

Kebele Education Desk (2)

School of Social Work (13)

GS-CUP Staff (3)

School Principals (9)

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| 1. Yeworqwoha Ababte | Kebele 03 KG |
| 2. Israeal H/Giorgis | Kebele 08 KG |
| 3. Assefach Tassewu | Ras Abebe |
| 4. Tesfaye G/Mariam | New Era |
| 5. Michael G/Tsdik | Temeheret Belichta |
| 6. Mulat Dejene | Yealem Berhan |
| 7. Almaz Keteffo | Ethiopian Tekdem No. 2 |
| 8. Jemal AbaMecha | Awoliya |
| 9. Tegenie Mengistu | Bethlehem |



Bethlehem School where the GS-CUP meetings are held

Children's Presentation about Community and Children's Strengths and Gaps

(The whole presentation process is tape-recorded.)



Presenting to the school principals in Gedam Sefer

In consultation with the kebele 03/09 Education Desk Head and member of the Community group, the children presented their assessment to the School Principals within the kebele. There are 13 schools (government, public and private). Accordingly, nine school principals (government and public) attended the children's presentation.

Their presentation was supported by flip chart and also drawings illustrating their understandings of the

community's strengths, gaps and solutions. They were bold and firm while presenting, explaining and defending their findings. Their presentation was similar to their last week's

presentation to the Idir and Community elders, and parents. The difference is that the children give more emphasis and detailed explanation to issues associated with children, parents and school collaboration issues. They also deliberately stressed on the possibilities of using school premises and classrooms on

weekends and vacation times. The school principals were supplied with the Amharic version of the following findings and a brief introductory note about the partnership's objectives and tentative plans.

Prof. Alice K. Butterfield explained to the school principals about the importance of community-university partnership. Prof. Butterfield also explained the activities undertaken by the partnership and the benefits from the collaboration. She informed the school principals and the children about the books that are shipped for Gedam Sefer and other areas in collaboration with Books For Africa. The participants were pleased and expressed their admiration.

The school principals expressed their admiration on the children's courage in describing their community's and theirs issues. They asked for detailed discussions to be conducted between the school principals and the Partnership to be arranged.

The kebele education desk head arranged the meeting without informing the school principals what the agenda was. He informed me that since he has a good rapport with them, they will come and it is better to surprise the school principals by the children's presentation and he was confident that this will be a good opportunity to clear all rumors and gossips about the partnerships objectives. The school principal was right, because one of the kindergarten principals who showed an interest to cooperate but retreated later also came without knowing what the agenda was. Her surprise and regret was visible on her communication with her colleagues and with us.



Children attending the presentation to school principals in Gedam Sefer