

**Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)**  
**January 11, 2008 9:00 – 12:00 PM**  
**District School Board of Niagara**

**Present:** Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Kathy Ballantyne (Guest), Andre Ceci (for Linda Kartasinski), Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Bonnie Filipchuk, Tiffany Gartner, Christine Graham (for John Crocco), Pat Heidebrecht, Linda Langston, Patti Moore, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Sandy Toth, Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Kaarina Vogin

**Regrets:** Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Anne Biscaro, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, John Crocco, Elke El Farsi, Brian Hutchings, Crystal LaForme, Linda Kartasinski, Odette Lamontagne, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Catherine Mindorff, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Jackie Van Lankveld, Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Tim Wright

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
<b>1. WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made.		
<b>2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	The agenda was approved.		
<b>3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES</b>	Moved by Eleanor Dolan Seconded by Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee <i><b>That the EYNPC notes of December 14, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</b></i>	Moved by Eleanor Dolan Seconded by Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee <i><b>That the EYNPC notes of December 14, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</b></i>	
<b>4. BUSINESS ARISING</b>	There is no business arising from the previous minutes.		
<b>5. CORRESPONDENCE (attached)</b>  M. Andrewes, Chair	M. Andrewes circulated recent correspondence (attached): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services re the transitional council college of early childhood educators.</li> <li>• Memorandum regarding the Ministry's blind/low vision early intervention initiative.</li> <li>• Invitation to B. Charron's retirement gathering on April 30, 2008 from 4:00-7:00 PM at White Oakes.</li> <li>• Memorandum from the YMCA of Niagara regarding the retirement of E. Dolan.</li> </ul>		
<b>6. PRESENTATION: Children's Services: Moving into 2008 (attached)</b>  Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services	P. Heidebrecht provided a presentation on Niagara Region Children's Services (attached). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been an increase from 5, 900 child care spaces to 7, 870 spaces since the last plan was released.</li> <li>• The region is looking into why there are higher costs in Niagara for children's services than the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking</li> </ul>	EYNPC Agenda Coordinating & Accountability Committee to schedule update from Children's Services re Child Poverty report when completed.	

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
	<p>Initiative. This may be attributable to the number of targeted services and services for children with special needs provided in Niagara. Additional considerations include services for the 7-12 population in Niagara and geographic location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the number also reflects a higher investment in our children and should actually increase over time.</li> <li>• An update from Niagara Region Children’s Services on the recommendations outlined in the Child Poverty Report will be scheduled for the February 8, 2008 meeting of the EYNPC.</li> <li>• Challenges include implementation of provincial income testing for child care subsidy in considering those working families that will no longer meet the criteria for subsidy but cannot afford care; as well as implementation of policies for collection of fees at child care centres.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the EYNPC consider advocating for raising income ceiling for child care subsidy in order that it be comparable to other financial qualifications established by the Ministry for income support.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED PLANNING COMMITTEES &amp; WORKING GROUPS:</b></p> <p><b>7.1. Agenda Planning &amp; Accountability</b></p> <p>M. Andrewes, Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Agenda Planning &amp; Accountability Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee met on December 19, 2007 to establish priorities for winter/spring meetings.</li> <li>• The Expert Panel meeting must be rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict with Good Friday.</li> <li>• The committee identified the need to review the terms of reference in order to confirm membership.</li> <li>• The EYNPC reviewed the membership outlined in the terms of reference and the following areas were identified as requiring further discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Due to restructuring of the francophone best start networks there is no current representation from the francophone school-boards; however, mechanisms for linking between this table and the francophone network will be established.</li> <li>➢ Parent representation is needed. A. Ceci offered to assist in recruiting a parent representative through school councils. The Niagara Cooperative Preschool Council could also be consulted. The EYNPC table may not be the most effective way in which to engage parents. EYN and Best Start Committees may also want to think about identifying parents to sit at those tables. Additional options will be considered in the next month.</li> <li>➢ Representation from additional funders/service clubs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
	<p>multicultural centres, and libraries was also recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ B. Filipchuk of FACS may also represent violence against women in addition to child welfare.</li> <li>• All members are encouraged to send a designate in their place if unable to attend a meeting.</li> <li>• M. Andrewes noted that she will be stepping down from the position of co-chair before the end of the year. The Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee will consider succession planning and the time commitment as well as responsibility required by this position at their next meeting.</li> <li>• The District School Board of Niagara and L. Kartasinski were thanked for providing space for the group to meet free of cost.</li> </ul>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Planning &amp; Accountability Committee to develop description of role and responsibilities of co-chair/vice chair.</p>	
<p><b>7.2 Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification Committee (COESEI)</b></p> <p>J. Van Lankveld, Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of J. Van Lankveld, Chair of the Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification Committee (COESEI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee has not met since the last EYNPC meeting.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7.3 Hub Development</b></p> <p>E. Dolan, Chair</p>	<p>E. Dolan reported on behalf of the Hub Development Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hub Development Committee has not met since the last EYNPC meeting.</li> <li>• The Communications and Gap Analysis Task Groups will be able to report at the April 11, 2008 meeting.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7.2 Early Learning and Parenting (attached)</b></p> <p>Barb Sockovie</p> <p><b>7.2.1 Parenting Program Task Group</b></p> <p>Linda Langston, Chair</p>	<p>B. Sockovie reported on behalf of the Early Learning and Parenting Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communiqué regarding the selection of a task group has been circulated to the EYNPC. Subsequently, several individuals have come forward to express interest in participating, including Dr. Vanderlee (Brock University) and Mike Riordon (Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre).</li> <li>• The task group has not yet met to address the full day JK/SK strategy but will be able to provide an update at the April 11, 2008 meeting.</li> </ul> <p>L. Langston, reported on behalf of the Parenting Program Task Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group is meeting in February. A presentation/update will be provided at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee to schedule presentation of Parenting Program Task Group at the February 8, 2008 meeting.</p>	
<p><b>7.5 Early Years Niagara Research Advisory</b></p>	<p>Dr. Vanderlee reported on behalf of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group.</p>		

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
<p><b>Group (EYNRAG)</b></p> <p>Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Chair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans are moving ahead for the 2008 Community Report. A full day planning meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>8. REPORT: Ministry of Child &amp; Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</b></p> <p>Patti Moore, Program Supervisor</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current priority is preparing for the full day learning strategy. Information will be gathered from across the region to present to Dr. Charles Pascal. Dr. Pascal will undertake his new appointment in February 2008.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department</b></p> <p>Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update from Niagara Region Children's Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for department is near completion, with strategic objectives to be shared with the EYNPC in the next quarter.</li> <li>The Institute for Research and Public Policy has released a research paper <i>Ensuring the Best Start to Life: Targeting Versus Universality in Early Childhood Development</i>. The report can be accessed at: <a href="http://www.irpp.org/indexe.htm">http://www.irpp.org/indexe.htm</a></li> </ul>		
<p><b>10. REPORT: Business Education Council of Niagara</b></p> <p>Judy Reid, Manager, Labour Force Development</p>	<p>J. Reid provided an update on behalf of the Business Education Council of Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All school-readiness calendars have been delivered. English school-readiness brochures have been printed and will be made available for JK/SK registration.</li> <li>Family Literacy Events and Touch a Truck Event planning is moving forward.</li> <li>Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award presentation of the 2007 award-winning title to Niagara Region Council is scheduled for February 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM.</li> <li>Budget review with CMSM is scheduled for January 14, 2008.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>11. NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Reid circulated invitations to the Business Education Council's Annual Partners Breakfast. The event is scheduled for February 15, 2008 beginning at 7:30 AM.</li> <li>D. Cunningham reported that invitations are being sent out for the scientific café on autism scheduled for January 29, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 PM.</li> </ul>		

<b>EYNPC Meeting Schedule</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
February 8, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland
March 28, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland