

**Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)**  
**November 9, 2007 9:00 – 12:00 PM**  
**District School Board of Niagara**

**Present:** Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Anne Biscaro, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Lisa DeGasperis (for Eleanor Dolan), Darlene Edgar (for Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd), Tiffany Gartner, Carol Germyn (for Linda Kartasinski), Pat Heidebrecht, Margaret Jarrell, Crystal LaForme, Linda Langston, Patti Moore, Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Jackie Van Lankveld, Kaarina Vogin, Tracy Zachariah

**Regrets:** Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Bill Charron, Eleanor Dolan, Elke El Farsi, Brian Hutchings, Odette Lamontagne, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Catherine Mindorff, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Tim Wright

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. <b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made.		
2. <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	The agenda was approved.		
3. <b>APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES</b>	Moved by Margaret Jarrell Seconded by Anne Biscaro <b><i>That the EYNPC notes of October 12, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	Moved by Margaret Jarrell Seconded by Anne Biscaro <b><i>That the EYNPC notes of October 12, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	
4. <b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	The following is business arising from the previous minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelopment of the Early Years Niagara brochure is underway. The brochure has been developed in partnership with marketing students at Brock, Public Health and BEC.</li> <li>• J. Reid and L. Langston will source costs/software for the Parenting Resource Directory.</li> </ul>	BEC to provide copies of the revised Early Years Niagara Brochure.  J. Reid/L. Langston to source costs/software for the Parenting Directory.	January 11'08.  December 14'07.
5. <b>PRESENTATION: EARLY LITERACY UPDATE (attached)</b>  Jackie Van Lankveld	J. Van Lankveld provided a presentation on early literacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top ten priorities have been identified and put to a timeline.</li> <li>• Several community presentations and demonstrations are underway.</li> <li>• Research project carried out in partnership with Dr. John McNamara at Brock University. The project compares two different types of treatment for speech and language delays, one that is traditional and one that is strongly literacy based. The preliminary results indicate that while both groups showed language improvement, the literacy based treatment also led to improvement in literacy.</li> <li>• Next steps include meeting with school board personnel to</li> </ul>		

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	<p>ensure continuity in programming and transition planning for JK/SK; by 2009, offer PALS (Parents As Literacy Supporters) program during the summer before SK begins to address any developmental delays identified at this point; and a presentation to physicians at the Scientific Assembly in Toronto on November 15, 2007.</p> <p>C. Germyn agreed that holding the PALS program over the summer would be a great way to treat developmental delays between JK and SK and that there is a need to continue to improve linkages between DSBN and Speech Services Niagara.</p> <p>It was noted that a presentation from DSBN on JK/SK plans and school-readiness should be planned in 2008.</p>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Planning Committee to schedule presentation from DSBN.</p>	
<p><b>7. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEES &amp; WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>6.1. Agenda Planning &amp; Accountability</b></p> <p>M. Andrewes, Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes provided an update on behalf of the Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee continues to work on summarizing the overriding themes and goals of the EYNPC. The OEYCs are also creating a summary of the goals identified in their last plan.</li> <li>• The schematic of Network components has been updated following feedback received at the last meeting.</li> <li>• Terms of reference are to be drafted.</li> <li>• Information on the JK/SK strategy should be available in January 2008. Implementation of the policy is planned for 2011.</li> <li>• A presentation from the Ministry's Expert Panels will be planned with reports from the Expert Panel on Early Learning, by Dr. Bertrand, Chair; the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources, by Dr. Lero, Chair, and the Expert Panel on 18 Month Well Baby Visit by Dr. Williams, Chair.</li> <li>• This meeting will be open to anyone interested. The goal of the session will be to provide a better understanding of opportunities to implement the panels' recommendations in the Niagara community.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.2. Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification (COESE) (attached)</b></p> <p>J. Van Lankveld, Chair</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld reported on behalf of the Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference were circulated.</li> <li>• The group has identified providing consistent developmental norms for parents as a priority.</li> <li>• Representation is needed from school boards on this committee.</li> </ul> <p>C. Germyn offered to look into obtaining additional representation from the DSBN.</p>	<p>C. Germyn to look into obtaining representation from the DSBN.</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An email was received referring to the cessation of contribution agreements for funding for Aboriginal Children's Programming. P. Moore will look into this issue.</li> </ul>	P. Moore to look into funding issue re contribution agreements for Aboriginal Children's Programming.	
<p><b>6.6 Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee (attached)</b></p> <p>Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Chair</p>	<p>J. Blais-Breton reported on behalf of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raymonde Lafond has agreed to be the second representative of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee on the EYNPC.</li> <li>Jocelyn Blais-Breton and E. El Farsi will remain on the EYNPC to ensure linkages are maintained.</li> <li>A presentation on the transition of the Regional French Language Best Start Networks was provided (attached).</li> <li>École LaMarsh will have an official open house on November 26'07. Spaces at École Immaculée-Conception will officially open in January 2008, with most age groups already at capacity.</li> <li>Terms of reference for the network will be developed.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. REPORT: Ministry of Child &amp; Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</b></p> <p>Patti Moore, Program Supervisor</p>	<p>P. Moore reported provided an update from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Minister, Deb Matthews, is also the Chair of the Committee on Poverty, so the link between children and poverty has been made.</li> <li>Cathy Jenkins of the Ministry of Education should be invited for the presentation by the local school boards when it is scheduled.</li> <li>Information on the number of Best Start Networks was requested. The Early Child Development Branch in Toronto will be consulted.</li> </ul>	P. Moore to consult Early Child Development Branch re the number of functioning Best Start Networks.	
<p><b>8. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department (attached)</b></p> <p>Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update from Niagara Region Children's Services (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>409 of the new child care spaces are for the 0-6 population. Some of the spaces reflected in the chart include spaces for children aged 7-12.</li> <li>The majority of projects were on target financially and money was used very thoughtfully; with the francophone boards the only in the province that did not exceed the budget.</li> <li>An update on Best Start developments since 2005 will be developed by P. Heidebrecht and P. Moore.</li> </ul>	P. Heidebrecht and P. Moore to provide update on Best Start developments since 2005.	
<p><b>9. 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>The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Poetry Celebration and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Poster Celebrations were successful. Four poems were selected to be read before Regional Council on November 8, 2007. Sarah Gosse of Niagara Region Public Health coordinated this project.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities Niagara supported a full page ad in Niagara this Week that featured several of the submitted poems.</li> <li>• There were a total of 13 free family skates hosted by 11 municipalities, and 4 free family swims hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara and the YMCA of Niagara. Events were held throughout November to recognize National Child Day.</li> <li>• Plans are underway with Niagara Region Public Health for the youth forum: <i>Join the Revolution: Go Green</i>. 185 students are registered for the event, which is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• The Small Business Club of Niagara is planning a fundraiser for National Child Day on November 20<sup>th</sup> to provide pajamas and books for children and families.</li> <li>• The 2008 Off to School Calendar is currently being printed and has been translated into French.</li> <li>• Planning for the 2008 Touch a Truck Event is underway, with the Region providing liability insurance again this year.</li> <li>• M. Thacker and T. Gartner are working on expanding the Early Years Niagara website to include DAC activities.</li> <li>• A brochure has been developed on the Ontario Early Years Centres for Welcome Wagon.</li> <li>• The BEC's Annual Partners Breakfast is planned for February 15, 2008 and will focus on a call to action to address child poverty in Niagara.</li> <li>• Dr. Mitchell of the Department of Child and Youth Studies, Brock University, will be attending to the UN Committee on Child Rights in December. Any member with information relating to child rights initiatives in Niagara should forward it to M. Thacker.</li> <li>• Along with the Understanding the Early Years Niagara Region Project and the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group, plans are underway for <i>Bridging Knowledge and Action: The Early Years Niagara Story</i>. Both morning and evening sessions will be held on November 28, 2007.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B. Sockovie reported that a transitional council for the College of Early Childhood Educators has been appointed (attached).</li> <li>• D. Cunningham confirmed that the first café symposium co-hosted by Niagara College and Brock University will be held on January 29, 2008.</li> <li>• B. Charron, Executive Director of FACS, is retiring April 30, 2008.</li> </ul>		

EYNPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
December 14, 2007 9:00-11:30 AM	Four Points Sheraton, Newman Room 3530 Schmon Parkway, Thorold
January 11, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines