

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES</b></p>	<b>Date:</b>	September 18, 2008
	<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am
	<b>Location:</b>	Rendezvous
	<b>Chair:</b>	Donna Cutler
	<b>Recorder:</b>	Ann Anderson
<b>Type of meeting:</b>	<b>Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Darlene Fejos Rousseau, Kim Gardiman, Leanne Mineault, Carolyn Skirten , Donna Cutler, Kim Anderson, Ann Anderson, Anne Marie Armstrong, Teresa Larson, Sandra Russell	
<b>Guests:</b>	Bill Reynolds, Chris Maltais	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Judith Lindholm, Monique Raymond, David Sharp, Sharon Preston, Jeff Warner.	
<b>Absent:</b>		

- 1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions  
Introductions were made
- 2) Our Vision: *"The Best Start for ALL Children"*
- 3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda  
Agenda was approved with 1 addition from Kim Gardiman and some changes in the order presented.
- 4) Review of Minutes – June 5<sup>th</sup> , 2008  
Minutes were review and approved as presented.
- 5) Best Start Hub Parent Focus Group Findings – Bill Reynolds/ Chris Matais - see attached power point presentation for details
- 6) Old Business:
  - a) Update – Action items from June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008
    - Most items were dealt with in Committee reports
    - Logo has been changed to reflect BS Network and will be used on letterheads, etc



- Discussions did not happen about when the Summer Celebration is scheduled in 2009 so will be an action items for next meeting.

**ACTION:** Discuss timing of SC 2009 to best accommodate all interested parties

**b) Committee Reports:**

**Communications Committee** – Leanne reported money was spent on indoor and outdoor signs, window decals, stickers, banners and storage and sandwich boards for Hubs of which they were quite grateful to get.

**Decisions made:**

- ✓ The logo tagline will be “**The Best Start for ALL children**” on all Hub promotion materials
- ✓ A banner should be made for the network and partners to use for display purposes at fairs, info sessions, etc. at a cost of approx. \$500.00 split between the Kenora and Rainy River Districts. Logo will be done in hi resolution.
- ✓ BS Partners will apply for a decal indicating that they are partners of BS – but there will be an application process required.
- ✓ The network will reimburse the cost of paper in the amount of \$500 – 800.00
- ✓ That the Communication Committee gather the cost of engaging a publicity firm to promote the Best Start Vision (3 quotes will be sufficient)

**Recruiting Partners Committee** – Ann reported on the success of the Summer Celebration 2009, the transition plan and the ECE/K teacher exchange (see attached report)

- Suggestions from the network included sharing evaluation forms with presenters and that ECE/K teacher exchange should continue to pilot this upcoming year to get more feedback on the experience. The transition plan should be sent to partnering agencies that will use it as a universal tool in the RR District so that they buy into the process and will eventually use it exclusively.
- Some discussion is warranted around when future SC are to be scheduled. (See action item.

**c) Financial Update** – Kim reported that as of the end of Sept/ 2008, we have spent \$6904.89. Total budget is \$20.900 so we have around \$12,000.00 left over for this year (year end Dec). The network decided that if capital dollars were needed that we would use the same process of submitting proposals.

- d) Kim Gardiman has resigned from her present job at the RRDSSAB, Manager of Children's Services and has taken a program manager job, (Family Services) at the NWHU, which means she will continue to sit on the network as a NWHU rep rather than a RRDSSAB rep.
- e) Dr. Charles Pascal was well received by the network with minor changes made.

**Action:** Donna will send the letter to Dr. Charles Pascal. She will share it the Kenora BS network and partners in BS.

f) **Ministry Update** – Sandra provided the following information:

- Congratulations to the Summer Celebration group for another successful gathering.
- Draft letter to Dr. Charles Pascal looked great and covered all of the RR District issues.
- NEWS: She announced additional funding for the **Student Nutrition Programs** in schools across Ontario which was announced in early summer. The lead agency for this is NWHU in our district – schools are targeted that have a high identified need based on MOE data among other sources. This money will be spread over 3 years with specific guidelines set out for this year only. The program will be community driven. Sarah Lynn Semeniuk, NWHU health promoter will be the contact person for this initiative.
- There is a **Regional Best Start Network Mtg** being planned with a tentative date being **Dec. 12, 2008**. The broad areas identified as being covered in the agenda are as follows:
  - a) Early Years and Child Development Partnership
  - b) Networks as Change Agents
  - c) System Integration
  - d) Moving into Full Day Learning (JK)
- A Northern Regional Mtg is also in the works for Spring 2009 with a possible location of Thunder Bay.

g) **Hub Update:** Leanne reported that the Aboriginal Head Start program has consented to be a Best Start Hub and signage will be ordered for that location. Rainy River Hub is now the owner of the Sears building in RR and a construction contract has already been awarded to get the renovations underway

**6. Understanding the Early years North Request:** This group is requesting funding from the RR Best Start Network to help fund a conference to kick off /share data to neighbourhoods about their children's readiness to learn.

**Decision:** We, as a network, will set this as a priority to dedicate funds to this endeavour for next year.

**7. Chair Selection: Defer to October Mtg...**

## 8. Other

- FACS is having a review of infant development and then standards will be developed to guide their program
- There is a newly formed College of ECE and info has been sent out to all agencies housing ECE staff.
- NWHU will be distributing a set of Eagle Books to some schools in the RR District to commemorate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

9. **Next Meeting Date** – November 6, 2008. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

10. Meeting Adjournment