

 <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES</p>	Date:	January 14, 2010
	Time:	10:00 am
	Location:	RRDSSAB Board Room
	Chair:	Carolyn Skirten
	Recorder:	Mildred Beck
Type of meeting:	Rainy River District Best Start Network Meeting	
Participants:	Carolyn Skirten, Ann Anderson, Mildred Beck, Phyllis Kellar, Deb Cousineau, Judy Lindholm, Leanne Mineault, Kim Gardiman, Donna Cutler, Kim Anderson, (teleconference) Sandra Russell, Tammy Faykes	
Regrets:	Anne Marie Armstrong	
Absent:		

1) Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions

2) Our Vision: *“The Best Start for ALL Children”*

The vision statement was read by Kim Gardiman.

3) Approval of & Additions to the Agenda

Additions:

5) Ongoing Business: (f) EDI Conference Update

6) New Business: (e) Best Start Service Plans
 (f) Rainy River District Best Start Terms of Reference
 (g) Parent Training videos (Ann Anderson)

Moved by: Deb Cousineau

Seconded by: Donna Cutler

“That the Agenda be approved with additions as noted.”

All in Favour: Carried.

4) Review of Minutes:

Moved by: Ann Anderson

Seconded by: Leanne Mineault

“To accept the minutes from the meeting of November 5/09 as presented.”

All in Favour: Carried.

5) Ongoing Business:

a. Update – Action items

1. EDI Data Report - Bill Reynolds - the EDI is currently in draft and will be forwarded to members at a later date.

2. Planning Dollars from 2009 for Best Start Hub Coordinators Regional Meeting: Refer to Financial Update and 2010 Proposed Budget.

3. Coordination of ELECT Training - Leanne/Mildred – Web conference sites have been set up for the ELECT. Wanda Gordon will advise sites of the locations by early next week. Kim Anderson advised that she had not received notifications for the Northwest District Catholic School Board. Leanne Mineault will forward the information.

Ann Anderson inquired about the ELECT document, is this to be used in 2010 planning or is the kindergarten curriculum? Leanne Mineault spoke to the issue of the role of the ELECT for planning for Child Care Centres and Best Start Hub sites

Sandra Russell advised that Dr. Pascal is in the process of combining the ELECT and the current JK/SK curriculum which will be presented to the Ministry of Education for incorporation into curriculum. A blended document will be approved by the Ministry of Education for the ELP curriculum and by 2015 will replace the current ELECT.

4. Website Updates - Mildred – Website updates are ongoing per Network direction.

5. Enhanced 18 Month Well Baby Visit – Donna Cutler – Donna spoke to the Enhanced 18 Month Well Baby Visit and will do a presentation to the Network when all data is collected and roles/responsibilities defined.

Action: Donna will present to the Network when all data is collected.

6. Assets in Action – Donna Cutler – Donna advised members that this project is under the umbrella of the Northwestern Health Unit and she will bring information to the next meeting.

Action: Donna will present to the Network at the next meeting.

b. Committee Reports

Communication Committee – Deb Cousineau and Kim Gardiman are working on the proposed Children’s Services Fair.

Mildred reported on the status of the radio ads for the District and advised that they are scheduled to run from the end of January to April pending final approval from the Networks.

Leanne reported that all books for the Literacy Campaign have been delivered and coupons could begin to be distributed to stores the last week of January. Ann advised that the Royal Bank also donates books to every child in Grade 1 free of charge and that may be a source we would look to for future campaigns.

Ann reported that the poster campaign has been well received by the Teachers. For Grades 1 & 2 split classes we’ll judge together and make note of those submissions from Grade 2.

Persons approached to judge for the Rainy River District are Connie Cuthbertson (Northwoods Gallery), Ann Anderson and Phyllis Kellar. Posters are to in by January 29th and judging will take place the week of February 8th.

A request was made to submit a newspaper ad or to advertise the poster contest on the radio. Ann will contact Sarah directly about further advertising on the radio spots and Sarah will forward to Mildred any information with regards to newspaper ads in the Rainy River District is timelines deem this action feasible.

A request was forwarded to the Network from the Communications Committee for a contribution to the 2010 Early Learning and Child Care Conference. This request was referred to the Financial Update.

Recruiting Partners – Kim Anderson and Ann Anderson will work on the development of a Continuing Education program for the Network.

Moved by: Deb Cousineau

Seconded by: Donna Cutler

“That the Rainy River District Best Start Network develop a Continuing Education Bursary for the Early Learning Staff in the Rainy River District from 2009 Deferred Revenue.”

All in Favour: Carried.

Action: Kim and Ann will proceed with the Development of a Continuing Education Program and 2009 unallocated Year End Surplus will be utilized for a Continuing Education Bursary .

c. Financial Update:

Mildred Beck provided a financial update, as per the attached Year-to-Date Report. A proposed budget for 2010 was also presented for approval, as per the attached.

Moved by: Kim Gardiman
Seconded by: Ann Anderson

“That the Rainy River District Best Start Network approves the 2010 Budget and Allocation of estimated 2009 Surplus per the Financial Report.”

All in Favour: Carried.

(2009 Unaudited Financial Report and 2010 Budget attached as a separate report)

d. Ministry Update – Sandra Russell:

Early Learning Program (ELP)

Sandra reported on the announcement of the schools selected for Phase I of the ELP in September 2010. Conversations regarding implementation are being lead by corporate staff at MEDU. The ELP will be having meetings with the schools on the list and training staff for the implementation from Feb/Mar to August of 2010. Discussions are being held regarding the partnership between ECE's and Teachers.

Schools are to include the Extended Day option to parents as part of the registration process for JK/SK.

At present School Boards have the option, but are not mandated to provide Special Needs Resourcing as part of the ELP.

MCYS will be doing a second stage impact review on Child Care Centres and DSSAB's as related to the school selections. There will be an opportunity to submit Business Cases for mitigation funding. MCYS recognizes that all child care programs will not survive the ELP implementation.

Regional Best Start Network Meeting

There will be a Regional Best Start Network meeting tentatively planned for the first week of March. There is also a Provincial meeting for Data Analysis Coordinators possible that week. In the event that the two meetings conflict, our Regional Meeting will be moved to March 23,24 and 25th in Sault Ste. Marie.

Tentative schedules for this Regional meeting will be the Child Care Managers on the 23rd, Best Start Networks on the 24th and Best Start Hub Leads/OEYC on the 25th. The meeting on the 25th will primarily focus on Child and Family Centres and the drive to be connected to schools; how is this possible, how can it exist in the future and how will we position ourselves.

The Ministry will become very specific about programs and partnering with the Early Learning Program as implementation progresses.

Sandra advised that she has some monies set aside for this meeting and would like the support of all attending. Leanne inquired as to the possibility of video or teleconferencing for the meetings for those unable to physically attend.

Action: Determine Best Start Network Members who will attend and confirm travel dollars from 2010 budget.

e. Coalition Updates/Reports:

Tammy Faykes reported from Atikokan that the local hospital will not be delivering babies after February 1, 2010. Discussion was held on how families will cope with travel expenses for medical supervision and treatment. Prenatal care will still be offered, but delivery will have to be in Thunder Bay or Fort Frances. The Atikokan Next Generation Coalition will be following up on the impact of this withdrawal of service and work with their local MP to secure services for residents.

It was reported that the new life and skills program including the food book updates have resulted in cooking classes and a pamphlet on cooking.

February 23 is being promoted for the Family Literacy Day in the community.

It was determined that the Network needs to ask the Coming Together for Kids Coalition for a representative for the coming year.

Action: Deb will send a formal request to the Coming Together for Kids for a representative for the Best Start Network.

6) New Business

a. Best Start Hub Update: Leanne advised that protocols are still being developed and she expects that by the end of March most will be up to date for Early Learning/Child Care and ISN. Preschool Speech & Hearing, Blind/Low Vision, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and Ontario Works will be completed next.

b. Full Day Early Learning (ELP):

There was a review of 2010 – EL2 that was distributed by the Ministry of Education by members present. Mildred will contact the School Boards regarding attendance and enrollment after JK/SK registration.

c. Web Site Development:

Parent/Training Videos

Ann suggested that we put together a video to put on our website that shows a day in Kindergarten and a day in Child Care for families and children's services professionals. Sandra suggested that as at present there is an understanding that by 2016 JK/SK will all be Early Learning for 4 & 5 year olds that perhaps a slide show would be a better option at present.

Action: Determine a working group to prepare a video/slide show for the website.

Mildred reported that updates to the new site are still ongoing.

d. Election of New Chair:

Deb Cousineau – nominated by Ann Anderson, seconded by Donna Cutler
Kim Anderson – nominated by Ann Anderson, seconded by Kim Gardiman

Both members agreed to stand as Co-Chairs. Elected by acclamation.

e. Best Start Service Plan:

Mildred advised that she was informed verbally in December by MCYS that a new Best Start Service Plan would be required by June of 2010. As we have not received official notification, we will contact Sandra Russell for confirmation and dates.

Action: Deb will contact Sandra to confirm dates/requirements for an updated Service Plan.

f. Best Start Terms of Reference:

Mildred informed the Network that our current Terms of Reference needs to be updated to reflect the amalgamation of some of our local School Boards.

Action: Mildred will bring the current Terms of Reference to our next meeting for review and update.

g. EDI Conference Update:

Deb, Leanne and Ann attended the EDI conference in Winnipeg in November of 2009. All power points were put on a web site for review. Community Visits by the EDI demonstrated what can be done with EDI stats and how to change programs. Leanne reported that as a result of the conference Bill and Ann are currently looking as implementing this process and developing work plans to aid in motivating people.

The EDI conference will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting to present to the Network. The current data now shows trends as there are 3 EDI reports to work with.

Action: Deb, Leanne and Ann will present EDI conference material to the Network.

7. Other Business – N/A

8. Next Meeting Date – February 18, 2010 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the RRDSSAB)

9. Meeting Adjournment