

Meeting Minutes

Strive – February 8, 2019

Attendees: Anne Rae, Lee-Anne Cross, Kathy Harris, Cheryl Read, Holy Gerrits, Sheryl Third, Sydney Drone, Celine Biais, Cassandra Darling, Denise Guatelara, Pat Chenier, Barb Jackson, Jan Gaudet, Linda Grainger, Emily Paulger, Michele Valladeres, Kelly Smith, Cora Burns, Laura Morris, Jackie Anger, Jessi Keenan, Kara Pihlak, Ruth-Ann Whitley, Teresa Sulouski, Amanda Benton, Dil Troup, Meagan Monpetit, Jean-Baptiste Niakoma, Sheri Spriggs, Ally Scott, Meaghan MacDonell

Present via Zoom: Kelly Walker

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ally welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. Adoptions of Agenda/Additions

Agenda approved. No additions.

3. Approval of Friday November 9, 2018 minutes

Minutes approved.

4. Updates from Project Manager

Impact story. Christina from Princess Elizabeth wrote in to Strive to share the positive experience she had at Spoolapalooza and how much the event has helped to support outdoor education and play at her program.

4.1 2019 Funding and Work plan, 2018 Final Report

The final 2018 report and 2019 work plan have been submitted to the city. Approaching this year as a “maintenance” year to ensure cohesive alignment with the City’s early years plan which is under development.

4.2 Centre of Excellence Update

Great conversation last month to inform/guide Strive’s role moving forward with immersion phase of pedagogist training.

This transition is unfolding slowly for Strive given recent changes within the organization. The hope is to have the next Project Coordinator also take the pedagogist training to allow for that inter-organizational support.

The Centre is grateful for the patience of the community as the work continues to unfold.



5. Professional Learning opportunities

Sales for this calendar continue to be strong across all events. 6 events have sold out so far so we are really happy with the response thus far.

In the event of sold out events, emails are welcomed and we will start a wait list. If we do get any cancellations, spaces will be opened up to those on the wait list. Likewise, if you are registered for an event and know that you cannot attend, please let us know as we often do have a wait list and can offer that spot to someone else.

Had a great turn out to the Mindfulness workshop in Middlesex. Predominantly Middlesex educators in attendance, so nice to see the reach and response is there.

Changes to the reflective feedback process have been implemented. Certificates of participation are now being sent out only once the reflective feedback process has been completed. Despite some initial shock from participants, the improvements so far have been substantial, and we are seeing a dramatic increase in responses than we have from previous events.

This decision was intentional and thoroughly thought out and it is important to us that the community understand that this is not intended to be punitive but rather to help support our work and outcomes.

5.1 Winter ReThink

The day has been named: Mind Full or Mindful

Speakers and educator stories have all now been confirmed and we will be making time in the upcoming weeks to meet with those involved to finalize details.

Still looking for table facilitators. Need upwards of 30 this year due to the size of the event. We currently have 20 confirmed so there is still room for participation this way. If you or a team member were hoping to attend and would be willing to be a table facilitator, please let us know. This is a wonderful way to engage in leadership and there is a process in place to coach and support our facilitators throughout. You also get to attend for free which is a great incentive. If you, or someone from your organization is already registered but you think would be a great table facilitator, please let us know, as their registration fee can be refunded and that space can be opened up to an individual from our wait list.

Have made the decision not to assign seating arrangements. This has been done in the past to encourage networking and to allow participants to hear different perspectives, philosophies and experiences. So while we will not be specifically assigning this year, the intention is to still have people disperse members from their organizations across tables. Our hope is not to see single tables being filled by a single organizations.

We will, for the first time, have a table with a French language facilitator for those educators who may feel more comfortable having those reflective table conversations in French.

Potential for a Spanish led table as well.

Table information will be displayed as people filter in so that participants can situate themselves where they feel most comfortable.



6. Information Sharing

LCCN – Barb Jackson – Work is moving forward on the recruitment and retention campaign. Currently working on a poster advertisement. “ECE the Unsung Hero” – moving towards a date for a photoshoot. Hopeful release for the poster in April.
Advocacy: Have put forward an LCCN response to the proposed amendments to Bill 66.

OCCBC – Cara from Oak Park is a champion for the London area. Collecting signatures for a petition in support of maintain the wage enhancement grant. The petition is available on the OCCBC website and signatures are due on Thursday, February 14.

AKB – increasing their focus on outcomes measurement. Over the next couple of weeks, surveys will be circulating requesting feedback from the community. Responses are anonymous and your participation is much appreciated.

6. Open Spaces for Conversation: Suggestions for Spring Calendar

- Gender roles in the early years
- Leadership training/network (series)
- Dealing with bullying behaviours
- Educator/Parent communication/engagement
- Finding/rediscovering joy and passion in what we do
- De-escalation strategies (school-age)
- Encore of community connector training
- Follow-ups to Winter Rethink topics

8. Congratulations Celebration for Sheri

9. Next meeting: Next meeting March 8 2019

