

**Stratford School Readiness and Child Care Advisory Council
Promise Leadership Work Group****Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2009**

Members present: Lynette Baroni, Barbara Blosveren, Melissa Daskam, Christina Kazanas, Priscilla Long, Pat Naylor, Abel Padro, Greta Roberts, Carolyn Ross, Norma Tomes, Tammy Trojanowski, Alix Semanchik, Elaine Watson

Members absent: Susan Gottlieb, Myra Watnick, Alice Williams

Consultants: Sonja Ahuja, Maria Mojica

1) Welcome and Introductions**2) Governance and Sustainability – Led by Paul Vivian**

- Paul Vivian facilitated a conversation about governance, laying the foundation for future work. SRACCAC/SPLWG members undertook a “Coat of Arms” exercise and six leading statements were used to prompt dialogue: I joined this group because; I am frustrated in this group when; It is really exciting in this group when; What I would do differently is; One of the obstacles in our process is; and One of my concerns about governance is. Each member was given two minutes to discuss thoughts and opinions.
- The following themes emerged in response to the statements:
 - I joined this group because:
 - Was assigned
 - Have a passion for young children
 - Feel work needs to be done in the community
 - What I would do differently is:
 - Have more time for work; less talk
 - Bring other partners on board
 - Make meetings public/get more public input
 - Not have taken funding for the plan
 - Bring accredited and non-accredited facilities to the table

Possible solutions: Stop the plan now and reconnect to our vision; or narrow the plan to where we can make an impact

- It is exciting when this group:
 - Takes specific actions
 - Partnerships are made
 - Shows passion about why we are here
 - Shares ideas
 - Is complimented for our work
 - Becomes mentors for other communities
 - Sees plan move along

- My concerns about governance are:
 - How it will fit with professional roles
 - There will be confusion over how governance in the group has changed
 - Do not understand what “governance” actually means
 - The Council lacks a common vision, direction, and view of member roles
 - Egos will interfere with work
 - Partners will not actually support the work

Possible solutions: Clarify/define what governance means (i.e. What does it mean for Stratford?); work through a consensus process; and create a structure around a common vision

- I am frustrated in this group when:
 - There is little time for work
 - Lack clarity about what we are doing
 - Get bogged down in words, minutia, process, RBA language
 - Move away from our focus and are driven by GMF model/RBA
 - Do not understand roles
 - Do not recognize accomplishments

Possible Solutions: Create a different structure for the agenda including general time followed by small groups; clearly follow a set agenda; and assign a timekeeper

- Obstacles in our process are:
 - Bogged down with plan
 - Plan is confusing and difficult
 - Changes in the roles of the group
 - Little parent leadership
 - Members do not speak up when they do not understand
 - Too few people making decisions
 - No shared understanding of the plan, language, and meaning of collaborative
 - Lack of support from powerful people

Possible Solutions: Work in smaller groups to share expertise; make the plan shorter and more succinct; help all members to contribute; and describe one thing in each strategic area that we can realistically do.

The next meeting of the Executive Steering Committee is on Thursday, July 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Birdseye Municipal Complex.