



**Early Literacy Alliance
of Waterloo Region**

Partnering for early literacy. Ensuring a stronger future.

ELAWR Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, Sep 23rd, 2014 from 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Family Centre– 65 Hanson, Kitchener, Room 2015

Present: Gabriele Croft, Cameron Dearlove, Joanne Davis, Maria Ashworth, Machele Denison, Lauren (BSW student at F & CS), Michelle Groom, Joanne Stronge, Janelle Wenger, Wanda Kampijan, Laura Dick, Maria Milne, Samantha Burns, Katie Jackman, Kim Krueger-Kischak, Colette Moffat, Cathy Scott

Regrets: Mary Trottier, Chris Beck

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and acceptance of May 26th meeting minutes
3. Budget update - Gabriele
 - We currently have a balance of \$6,709 in ELAWR's account. This includes the reserve of \$5000 for conference. Expenditures since our last meeting include \$156.24 for website expenses (2 years) and \$617.76 for liability insurance.
4. Update from Core Planning Subcommittee
 - ELAWR has applied for the Lynda Silvester award through the Lyle S Hallman; summary of proposal:
 - Gabriele: history, 22 different member organizations and community advocates, have developed common messages;
 - ELAWR Objective of Sharing met through website, brochures, events; Objective of Promotion met through banner, logo, social media, brochures, member of Children's Planning Table, tagline; Objective of Education met through website, brochures, conferences, literacy cafes; Objective of Advocacy met through presence at CPT, community advocate members, seeking partnerships
 - Impact: collaboration, enhanced visibility, enhanced referrals, more literacy-based education in community
 - What's Next: explore funding opportunities, build capacity, "Ignite an Early Literacy Movement in Waterloo Region"; Lynda Silvester Award proposal has three targets:

- Strategic Plan (Laura Dick): engage a consultant to help us develop a 3-5 year strategic plan
 - Advocacy (Kim K-K): engage a consultant to help ELAWR learn about and implement advocacy tools and strategies; share training with other community organizations; aim to impact a system-wide change
 - Communications (Machelle): engage a communications specialist; plan and film two short videos to use; communications plan to track touch points
- Will learn response to proposal at end of November or beginning of December; funding would be from January 2015 to December 2016
 - Proposed changes to Terms of Reference re financial decisions; will be determined by an e-vote by September 30th. **Action: CoChairs will send recommendation of financial accountability addendum to committee members, requesting review and vote with short turn-around time for members to accept/reject.**

5. Subcommittee updates

-Promotions: thanks to Cathy Scott, Katie Jackman, Wanda Kampijan, Colette Moffat, Janelle Wenger, Laura Dick, Kim Krueger-Kischak and Gabriele Croft, who staffed the ELAWR booth at the Word on the Street Festival

-Social Media: thanks to Samantha for 10 early literacy strategies posted on ELAWR's Facebook page; 3,300 unique visitors to website in August; would be valuable to track our postings

-Early Literacy Café: no café this fall due to conference

-Oct 25th Conference: have low registrants so far so will need to do more promotion; Machelle recommended use of Slotter.com for organizing ELAWR members at the conference and other events

-Family Literacy Day: event will be January 25th at Conestoga Mall; are meeting with participating organizations to plan

6. Community updates about early literacy (5 minutes)

- Children's Planning Table: opportunity for ELAWR to share in speed-learning at September 25th meeting
- Early Literacy Specialist update: EQAO test results for our region are lower in math; lots of support 10 years ago on literacy, now the schools are focusing on math and science; consider having a Literacy and Math/Science topic for a future cafe

7. Member organization updates

- Baby Connections: almost 1,000 families received BC kits last year; currently hiring a new program assistant; contact Kim K- K for kit requests and facilitator training in the interim
- KidsAbility: new funding for children's treatment centres, looking to address gaps; emphasis in summer programs was on children starting school
- WRDSB SLP: continuing with roll-out of Full Day Kindergarten; providing support to kindergarten teams
- Family Centre: November 3rd community event at 6:30 p.m. with Kevin Campbell, discussion around building connections with marginalized people
- Project READ: Get Set Learn registration is lower due to FDK; running an after school program at Queen Elizabeth PS with support from KWCF; new set of workshops for grandparents in partnership with WPL and RWL
- WCDSB SLP: capacity building approach targeting the classroom as a whole; fourth year to offer Learning Language and Loving It for FDK team staffs; planning to offer Teacher Talk (shorter version of Learning Language and Loving It); SLP subcommittee is focusing on "Oral Language at Your Fingertips" document to develop modules on specific topics for school staff; receiving training in ABC and Beyond by Hanen
- WCDSB Early Learning: Learn Teach Lead resources at <http://learnteachlead.ca/en/library/>; includes focus on literacy and numeracy
- Strong Start: expanding Get Ready for School; many volunteers for Letters Sounds and Words
- F and CS: training for volunteer literacy tutors
- ROW PH: editing New Parent Resource Guide, distribute to families with new babies, added information to the guide about ELAWR and importance of early years
- ROW Home Child Care: expanded registration for fee paying services; opportunities for families out of region and out of country; still working with three different libraries for visiting library services to home care providers; promoting literacy in newsletter
- RWL: partnering with Project READ for grandparent workshops; partnering with other community organizations around Let's Read
- Our Place OEYC: partnering with Get Set Learn, taking Baby Connections to Country Hills Community Centre and have had a great response; Music and Movement Program has a literacy focus and is offered at Old Navy twice a month on Fridays (30 in attendance last week) and at Kitchener Market on alternate Fridays; new service of "Meet with a

Registered Early Childhood Educator”; celebrating 35 years with a family event on September 27th and wine and cheese on May 2nd

- Let’s Read: launched new title *Community Soup* at Word on the Street, other community events www.letsread.ca; author visits first week of November
- WPL: Fall programming started last week; early learning programs and other tech programs for older children and STEM and STEAM; transition-to-school program for children going to FDK
- LINC: impact of FDK on age of children in programming; adjusted ages and ratios; haven’t been as many newcomers as in past – many now from Ethiopia and Eritrea; more seniors in programs; being assessed in October around new approach and legislation
- PRC: have revamped the Child Developmental Lab School and PRC library; November 15th forum on “How Does Learning Happen?”; looking for speakers for March 7th 2015 ELCC conference (*presenter proposal application attached*); have added “I’m a proud member of ...” to e-mail signature and suggestion that ELAWR members consider doing the same
- Katie: editor of “The Professional” newsletter that goes to 650+ professionals (not a parent/family audience) every two months and looking for articles and program details
- ELs: meeting with other ELs September 26 in Peel to focus on pedagogical documentation; attending literacy conference in Niagara in November <file:///C:/Users/kkruegerkischak/Downloads/LiteracyConfBrchr14.pdf>; Samantha and Kim are involved with Joanne Lee from WLU to conduct a survey of professionals around use of technology in early learning

8. Future meetings :

Tuesday, November 25th at 1:00 p.m. at WPL Harper Branch – **Please note new date***