



**Best Start Network  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2016  
9:30am until 11:30am.  
Contact Brant, Park Road North**

**Present:** Connie McAllister, Jennifer MacDonald, Flora Ennis, Kim Romano, Sarah Robertson, Rita Stratford, Jane Angus, Debbie Eberth, Anca Gaston, Michelle Connor, Cathy Medway, (recorder)

**Regrets:** Melodie Spencer, Barb Mitchell, Franklin Leukam, Adele Gawley, Maria Timpener, Luisa Pappert

**Guests:** Laura Bergeron (FCCB for Shelley McCarthy)

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.0	Success story /Lesson's Learned –	Rita Stratford reported that Parents as Partners program on April 9 <sup>th</sup> was a success. The program was run jointly with the school boards and REACH. There were 41 participants in three work shops. The purpose of the program was to assist families with transitioning children into schools. Families felt they gained valuable skills, tools and insight. This program is an example of the importance of partnerships and relationships with school boards and other agencies. Rita would also like to thank the Best Start Network for their financial assistance.	
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes  Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda	Kim Romano welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. The purpose of today's meeting is to continue work on our strategic plan and have open discussion on Full Day Kindergarten and before and after school SACC programs	

3.0	<p>Approve Minutes of March 3 and April 14, 2016</p> <p>3.1 <u>Review and Discuss:</u> Review Strategic Plan – discuss leads and structure required to implement.</p> <p>3.2 Approve strategic plan</p> <p>3.3 Approve revised mission statement</p> <p>3.4 Review TOR</p>	<p>Strategic Planning work session part three.</p> <p>Focus of today's meeting is to review strategic plan updates, look at which committees will take the leads on achieving priorities and goals, review Terms of Reference updates and some future/new names and branding ideas of various programs</p> <p>Discussion followed and the Strategic Plan was reviewed, updates/changes made, leads and assigned. The document will be updated and sent to membership for approval</p> <p>After discussion the vision and mission statement were revised to ensure that they reflect the strategic plan and BS Terms of Reference. The new statements read as follows.</p> <p><b>Vision</b> Best Start is bringing out the best in all of us, our children, our families and our community.</p> <p><b>Mission Statement</b> We plan for and lead a collaborative process to implement early learning strategies that support families and children with a primary focus on those aged prenatal to 12 years in Brantford and Brant.</p> <p>Network members discussed TOR and noted some updates/revisions which will be completed after the meeting and sent out to membership for approval</p>	<p>Minutes for March and April were approved with consensus by electronic poll sent out via email as allowed by the TOR.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Cathy to send out electronic poll to membership to approve revised strategic plan, vision and mission statements and TOR.</p>
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4.0	<p>3.5 Discuss Network Name</p> <p>Best Start Updates  4.1 <u>Subcommittee Reports:</u>  <u>Receive Information:</u>  Aboriginal Advisory, SIC  Committee, Best Start  Magazine, Best Start Parent  Fair, Child Care Advisory  Committee, Recruitment and  Retention Committee</p>	<p>Discussion followed regarding branding and name change and it was determined that we would wait for more information from the Ministry before making any changes.</p> <p>We may look at a transition period where old and new brandings are displayed simultaneously. More details will follow.</p> <p>Aboriginal Advisory group continues to meet, funding is separate from other planning dollars.</p> <p>They will be at the Kids Celebration day June 16<sup>th</sup> with dancer and drummer demonstrations.</p> <p>Aboriginal Kits have been completed and now new smaller puppet kits. Sarah will be going into day cares as part of the continuum of learning to demonstrate the kits and do story telling</p> <p>A community update article was submitted in the BS spring magazine regarding the quiet space known as a Gaabaagang. This is an area where children can choose to go to be alone.</p> <p>SIC committee reports they need a new chair for the group.</p> <p>Parent Fair was a huge success with over 629 visitors. Agencies made great use of the floor space, Kim was very impressed with everyone's display tables. The activities at the tables were amazing.</p> <p>Dave Levac and Ava Hill were there to bring greetings and thanks to the City media departments the event was well publicized.</p>	
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5.	<u>Best Start Strategic Planning</u>		
	<u>5.1 Receive Information:</u>		
	Current and future planning		
6.	<u>6.1 Receive Information:</u>		
	St. Martin's Manor		

