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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** May 30, 2012

**MEETING TIME:** 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

**ATTENDANCE:** Douglas, L. (recording secretary); D'Ambroisio, L. (Best Start); Greaves, M. (Georgian College, Chair); Helmerichs, R. (Georgian College); Hobbs, S. (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Council); Holt, R. (LIP); Keery, H. (SCDSB); Khrystynko, T. (SCDSB); Lagace, H. (SCDSB); Lee, S. (LIP); Leukam, F. (Conseil Scolaire Catholique CS); Oliveira, I. (BICS); Rodford, E. (Barrie Learning Centres); Sloan, P. (SCDSB); Vanderwater, L. (SCDSB); Wong, T. (Literacy Council of South Simcoe)

Regrets: Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire catholique); McCann, M. (SMCDSB); McIntyre, S. (Literacy Council of South Simcoe); Whittington, P. (Georgian College)

**SUBJECT:** LIP Education Sub-council Meeting

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### 1) Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members, and members introduced themselves. P. Sloan introduced the guest presenters from the Simcoe County District School Board: Superintendent Paula Murphy; and Lisa Ewanchuk, Principal of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education. S. Lee introduced Kim Thomson, Social Enterprise for Canada, also a guest speaker at today's meeting.

### 2) Presentation by Superintendent Paula Murphy and Principal Lisa Ewanchuk, Simcoe County District School Board, on Equity/Inclusive Education Strategy

Superintendent Murphy reviewed her portfolio and representation of 22 schools in South Simcoe, and both guest speakers provided a snapshot of the Equity/Inclusive Education strategy. This includes Simcoe Path (guidelines and a multi-year plan on where the Board wants to go with students), professional learning including equity, inclusion, and anti-bullying, capacity for shared leadership, development of teacher-student equity, Student voice (accountability and transparency), forums for a group of students representative of diversity, equity and inclusion, school climate survey, student engagement (interest, learning, motivation), school-community relationships, implementation of "Roots of Empathy" program, trends in the last 10 years, equity and diversity calendar which students developed, last year's Equity in Action forum, "restorative practices" for respectful relationships project, circles, community partnerships (First Nations, OPP); and training.

Questions arose on the process of restorative practices, students as facilitators, the creation of the equity calendar, the next steps following the Equity in Action forum, involvement of newcomers in the program, and the measurement of the makeup of equity teams.

3) Presentation by Kim Thomson, Director, Child and Youth Services, Social Enterprise for Canada, on a Plan for Multilingual Tutoring

K. Thomson referred council members to the Learning Bridges Canada website, as the video equipment was not functioning properly. She provided an overview of the business plan for multilingual tutoring with the goal of providing language support to new immigrant children to maximize their potential for learning concepts and increase their academic success. Programs would be culturally appropriate, students would be tutored in their own language, families could access their tutor through e-portals wherever they have an internet connection; 1-to-1 time would be scheduled; and visual contact maintained with the installation of tablet technology smartboard/blackboard on their computer (Tamburg system). Students would undergo an initial assessment, individual learning plans and goals developed, homework support provided, and a total comprehension of the student's academic progress by the family. Courses would focus on math, English, science. The program is geared to kindergarten to university, with a focus on Grades 9-12. The program is expected to be launched in November 2012 with a promotional campaign beginning in September.

The floor was opened to questions. Feedback was encouraged, with the following comments received:

- questions on ESL training
- cost – fee for service (\$30/hr or 8 week package for \$3K)
  - o Private tutor more cost-effective
  - o Affordability
- connection with classroom teachers
- parental involvement
- Providing teaching in own language
  - o discouraged at post-secondary level
  - o counterproductive
  - o young absorb English fairly quickly
  - o May be more beneficial for adults or possibly at early stage for children
- Small window of opportunity if focus on high school level
- Are there other resources to cover tutoring costs or that offer tutoring services?

4) Municipal Immigrant Information Online (MIIO) Application

S. Lee reported that LIP submitted an application for an electronic portal to OntarioImmigration.ca . The deadline for applications was May 25, 2012. This is the last year for the Ministry's funding of portals.

#### 5) Immigrant Directory

S. Lee provided an update on the Welcoming Community Sub-council's development of an Immigrant Directory. A working group within the sub-council has met three times so far, and a draft of the *Living* section is near completion. Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board will provide the funding for the directory.

#### 6) Moving forward with planning in areas of priority

Tabled.

#### 7) Next Meeting Date/Other Business

The next two meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- September 19, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- October 24, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Location: TBA.

S. Lee reported that there will be a National CIC Call for Proposals. A working group within the Sub-council might consider submitting a proposal for one of the priority areas identified such as the Educational Services mapping. It was suggested that a conference call be arranged when more information becomes available on the call for proposals.

H. Keery suggested a teacher that she met at a conference, Lynn Schulze, from the KW area, as a future guest speaker. Ms Schulze developed a school program where Canadian-born students interviewed immigrant students. A video was produced, and the teacher went on to write a book, *Turning a New Leaf*, which is a collection of writings and reflections from new Canadians. With staff involvement, students were also linked in with a mental health initiative, and the school developed a program of mental health navigators. Contact: [lynn\\_schulze@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:lynn_schulze@wrdsb.on.ca) .

