

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for June 5th, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Thomas Lambert, Kate Mehok, Emily Wolff, Joyce Ridgeway, Maria Blanco, Joy Mitchell, Rhonda Taylor, Jen Roberts

Committee Members Absent: Kristi Givens, Thelma French, Kunjan Narechania, Carole Elliot

Community Members in Attendance: Kenneth Francis, Emily Madeira, Lindsay Wexler, Teresa Falgoust, Gabby Izzo, Sean Perkins, Aimee Grainer

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. At 11:30 am, Keith Liederman called the meeting to order.

II. READY START NETWORK UPDATES

- a. **Bylaws updates** - Eric Caufield, consultant, gave overview of high-level changes to NOEEN Steering Committee bylaws. Changes made to reflect the evolution of NOEEN, as well as with insight provided from NOEEN's Steering Committee focus groups.
 - i. The Committee moved to have two 3-year term limits for the Chair and Vice Chair.
 - i. The Committee discussed changes around the appointment of certain Committee members subject to changes in administration, such as those from NOLA-PS and the Mayor's office.
 - ii. The committee moved to add more language around parent engagement and parent term expiration.
- b. **Introduction of new NOEEN Staff**
- c. **Ready Start Network (RSN)**
 - 1. Coalition of early childhood networks in the state of Louisiana, with additional funding and resources from the State.
 - 2. NOEEN is in initial pilot phase of RSN.
- d. **Echo Fund**
 - i. In the Spring Echo Fund grant cycle, NOEEN gave 28 grants totaling \$206,700 to help centers fund a variety of expenses to expand learning and center capacity.
 - ii. There two upcoming cycles of Echo Fund Grants, both in the Fall and Spring, which will be announced in the coming months.
- e. **NOEERA Research Partnership**
 - i. Research partnership, NOEERA, has been established with NOEEN, NOLA-PS, and Educational Research Alliance (ERA).

- ii. Will be used to develop objective and useful research to aid NOEEN and NOLA-PS in continuing to improve the work of ECE.
- f. **NOEEN City Seats Program**
 - i. The City Seats program is in year 2 of the program, increasing to 11 providers and 112 INF-2YR seats in Orleans Parish.
 - 1. As of mid-August, participating providers were at 99% enrollment.
 - 2. Maria Blanco from LSU provided brief updates on the City Seats final Program Evaluation
- g. **NOEEN Strategic Planning**
 - i. In July 2019 NOEEN re-merged with Agenda for Children, with NOEEN functioning as the policy arm of the organization.
- h. **MMCI Update**
 - i. In the 2018-2019 school year, NOEEN provided over 8,784 hours of professional development to early childhood educators in Orleans Parish. A total of 366 early childhood educators completed all 24 hours of the MMCI group coaching.
 - ii. This Fall, NOEEN will be coordinating 4 more classes of Infant/Toddler MMCI to help proliferate CLASS knowledge of CLASS within infant classrooms to help prepare Orleans Parish early educators for the upcoming infant observations.
- i. **Steering Committee Retreat**
 - i. The Steering Committee will have a retreat on Friday, October 4th at the Louisiana Children’s Museum. It will be a chance to come together and think about lessons learned, get to know new members, and realign on our guiding principles, goals and strategies for the coming year.
- j. **Sub-Committees & Working Groups**
 - i. New sub-committees & working Groups will be established in an effort to deeply engage in policy and practice around specific spheres of ECE work, such as quality, enrollment and funding.
 - ii. All Steering Committee members are required to be a part of one of the sub-committees and/or working groups.
 - 1. Thomas Lambert from NOLA-PS asked if tuition PreK should be combined with the enrollment committee. The Committee decided to combine the working group and the sub-committee.
- k. **Coordinated Enrollment and Information Campaign**
 - i. **Enrollment Self-Assessment** – Aimee Grainer invited committee members to partake in the Enrollment Self-Assessment paperwork.
 - 1. The LDE requires that the lead agency works with community partners and with Coordinated Enrollment partners in order to document the previous school year’s enrollment process. A

meeting was held, post- steering committee meeting in order to receive member input on the process.

- II. **ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW** – Sean Perkins from NOLA-PS provided an overview of our current enrollment status, as well as enrollment updates.
- a. NOLA-PS provided a breakdown of enrollment and open seats as of mid-August.
 - b. Comparatively, there are more open seats currently when compared to past years around the same timeline. Reasons behind openings could be due to the fact that more seats were requested than in previous years.
 - c. There is evidence that empty seats are at lower quality locations. Jen from NOEEN aims to utilize the Funding working group to better steer allocations towards higher quality.
 - d. Rhonda from CCANO noted that her data shows that parents who are at the required income-level find the OneApp a barrier to access in their child’s early education.
 - e. NOLA-PS noted that the OneApp is currently conducting a review with large expected changes to be made that aims to better help these families.
 - i. 0-4 Open Seats as of August 26, 2019
 1. LA4: 176 seats
 2. Head Start: 90 seats
 3. NSECD: 53 seats
 4. PEG: N/A
 5. EHS: 10 seats
 6. Gifted: 0 seats
 7. Tuition: 22 seats
 8. NOEEN: 2 seats
 - ii. Enrollment trends from past years demonstrate that families will still be filling up seats continuously from now to October 1st 2019.
 - iii. To better predict allocations and reduce seat shifts, and coordinate outreach initiatives NOLA-PS will be analyzing geographic regions, quality and dates.
 - iv. Emily Wolff from the Mayor’s office of Youth and Families noted that anecdotal input from families around their experience with enrollment should be included to see if it coincides with the data that NOLA-PS finds.
 - f. **Changes to Funding Requests**
 - i. Certain sites have requested to return/reduce seats. The sites returning seats are:
 1. Wilcox Academy (NSECD): 14 seats
 2. St. Mary’s Academy (NSECD): 5 seats
 3. ReNew Schaumberg (LA4): 15 seats
 - ii. Certain sites are also requesting to add seats:

1. Resurrection of Our Lord (NSECD): 19 seats
 - a. 1 student is on the waitlist
2. Paul Habans (LA4): 10 seats
 - a. 20 students on waitlist
 - b. Paul Habans is requesting specifically to turn convert tuition seats that have yet to be filled to LA4.

g. Dates to remember

- i. August 26 – Late (Open Enrollment) Ends; Fall Transfer process begins.
The purpose of this practice is to ensure that the parent has talked to someone from the school prior to transferring.
- ii. September 14th – NOLA-PS Back to School Fest
- iii. September 25th – NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting
- iv. October TBD – EC SchoolForce training
- v. November 16th – Urban League Schools Expo
 1. Committee members expressed concern around the date change of the annual expo, as now it will launch before the OneApp is open, and parents will not be able to complete applications at the expo.
- vi. Late November – OneApp 20-21 launches

III. COORDINATED OBSERVATIONS

- a. Jen Roberts gave an update of NOEEN’s work around coordinated observations for the coming year.
 - b. NOEEN hired Gabby Izzo as a full-time team member to focus on improving CLASS protocol, PD and reliability.
 - c. NOEEN has also on-boarded 7 new observers for the 2019-2020 school year and will begin observations on September 6th, 2019.
 - d. Improvements to this year’s observation process include instituting a ‘feedback card’ with instructions for providers to give observation feedback post-observation.
 - e. In August NOEEN was notified by the LDOD which low performing sites will be required to participate in Site Improvement Planning process. 24 sites total in Louisiana were rated 3.75, per 2018-2019 preliminary ratings.
 - f. As it relates to observer reliability, 48% of observers in Orleans have a reliability of 51-79%.
 - g. Steering Committee expressed that a more reliable model of accountability would be to have third-party observers observing along with NOEEN observers.
 - h. Lastly, NOEEN is considering moving towards a self-observing model and will have updates around the potential process in the coming months.
- I. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting.
- **Action Item No. 2:** Each of the attending members of the committee signed up for a sub-committee.
- **Action Item No. 3:** The committee decided to combine the Tuition Working Group sub-committee and the Enrollment sub-committee.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Joy Mitchell, seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee moved to reduce 14 NSECD seats from Wilcox and 15 NSECD seats of St. Mary's Academy and transferred these seats to Resurrection of Our Lord.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Maria Blanco, seconded by Keith Leiderman, the Committee moved to approve to reduce 15 LA4 seats from Schaumberg and transfer 10 of the seats to Paul Habans and 5 of the seats to be returned to BESSIE. Katie Mehok abstained from voting.