
New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201
New Orleans, LA 70118
March 21, 2017
11:30 am

Committee Members in Attendance: Thelma French, Dr. Anthony Recasner, Kate Mehok, Joyce Ridgeway, Carole Elliot, Patrick Dobard, Mary Garton, Dr. Keith Liederman, Sonjia Joseph, and Kristi Givens

Committee Members in Absence: Maria Blanco

At 11:37 am, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Recasner.

I. NOEEN Strategic Plan update and approval

- a. Overview:** Bellwether Education Partners concluded their work with NOEEN on the strategic plan in January. A draft version of the Strategic Plan was distributed to the Steering Committee, and members were invited to send any suggestions or edits to Teresa Falgoust. The plan will serve as a guide for the board and executive director of NOEEN.
- b. NOEEN Transition Updates:**
 - i. There have been presentations to Orleans Parish School Board and the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) to notify them of the plans to incorporate NOEEN as an independent intermediary non-profit organization.
 - ii. Agenda for Children staff members and board members are aware that NOEEN is transitioning. The board members have given Dr. Recasner approval to raise funds for NOEEN and serve on the founding board.
 - iii. NOEEN will launch with a small founding board, which currently includes Dr. Recasner and Patrick Dobard. NOEEN is currently seeking additional founding board members with legal and financial expertise. The additional member(s) will be selected by an ad-hoc committee comprised of Steering Committee members. Once the organization is incorporated and staff is hired, the board will be expanded to include additional members.
- c. NOEEN Member Change:** Superintendent Kunjan Narechania will replace Patrick Dobard on the NOEEN Steering Committee. Patrick Dobard stated that he enjoyed his time serving on the Committee and learned a great deal about early childhood.
- d. Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members:**
 - i. **Does the Steering Committee exist past July 1, 2017?** The Steering Committee will become an advisory committee to the NOEEN board; the Steering Committee will also advise the board's nominating committee. If they chose to

do so, current Steering Committee members could transition to board members. **What are the next steps to forming the ad-hoc committee and identifying members to serve on the committee?** Steering committee members can volunteer to serve and should notify Dr. Recasner or Kristen Craig if they are interested.

II. Coordinated Enrollment Update

- a. **Main Round:** The Main Round application is now closed. EnrollNOLA received around 5,000 applications for early childhood seats. Of those applicants, 72% have completed the eligibility verification process. The main change to the enrollment process is that there is no longer a Round Two for early childhood seats. Instead, we are using an “Open Enrollment” period in which eligible families can access available seats (except Head Start) on a first come, first served basis. All Head Start and Early Head Start seats are still filled according to each grantee’s priorities. The elimination of Round Two allows programs to start waitlists earlier and allows EnrollNOLA staff to reach out to waitlisted families sooner to help them access available seats.
- b. **Availability of Seats:** While nearly every seat for children under the age of three filled, there are still a significant number of Pre-K 4 seats available. EnrollNOLA and Agenda for Children are strategizing about how to advertise the remaining seats. EnrollNOLA staff will also reach out to families that have not completed verification to support them in completing the verification process.
- c. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members**
 - i. **By what date do families need to accept their seats?** May 12th.
 - ii. **Is there a time when no placements will be made?** No early childhood or K-12 will be made between June 29th and July 10th because the Schoolforce system will be offline for maintenance before the week of late enrollment.
 - iii. **Is there any data as to why there are so many unfilled four year old seats in Orleans parish? Are other parishes having difficulties in filling their seats?** We have anecdotally heard that other parishes had trouble filling their LA4 seats across Louisiana during the 15-16 school year. Some service providers are also reporting that families are moving out of Orleans parish because of the high cost of housing. One way to determine whether this is a widespread trend would be to see if other networks’ child count shows increasing numbers of publicly-funded children.
 - iv. **Can we expand enrollment to accept children from other parishes?** It would depend on the funding source and their residency requirements.

Action Item(s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Thelma French, and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Dr. Keith Liederman, and seconded by Carole Elliot, the

Committee adopted the minutes from the January 24, 2017 Steering Committee Meeting.

- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Thelma French, and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved the NOEEN Strategic Plan
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Thelma French, and seconded by Sonjia Joseph, the Committee approved of Dr. Anthony Recasner as chair and Patrick Dobard as vice-chair of the founding board of NOEEN.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Patrick Dobard, and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee authorized the incorporation of an ad-hoc committee to incorporate NOEEN and take other next steps detailed in the NOEEN Strategic Plan.
- **Action Item No. 6:** On the motion of Kate Mehok, and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee authorized the founding board to incorporate NOEEN.
- **Action Item No. 7:** On the motion of Carole Elliot, and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee authorized NOEEN, as an independent non-profit, to apply to BESE for Lead Agency for 2017-18 school year.
- **Action Item No. 8:** On the motion of Kate Mehok, and seconded by Patrick Dobard, the Committee authorized Dr. Recasner to schedule an additional Steering Committee Meeting in May.

The Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.