

- Dorothy reiterated the effort being made to have community agencies present in front of the Steering Committee to strengthen the connections between the Steering Committee and the agencies working on this initiative.
 - Dorothy provided an update on the Winter Gala being presented by the Education Committee; it is on Thursday, January 17th, 2008, and at least half of the tickets have been sold.
- 6. Funding Opportunity – Standing Item
 - There were no opportunities to discuss
 - The Family Connections Program has access to a wonderful list of foundations that this committee can review when ready
 - Dorothy shared that she will be sending the membership list, including agency commitments. We are looking at updates on the list of agencies involved in this initiative and Dorothy will have Linda Perry send them out.
- 7. Research Update: Gay provided the latest update during last month’s meeting
 - Diane reported they will probably be following up on the connection with the John Hopkins program, and that a report will be sent out regarding the completed research
- 8. Workplan Review – Discussion on Parenting Packages
 - Lynda DeMelo sent a list of different agencies that may be useful in a search for information on parenting
 - There is a new group connection – Lisa Costin – who is gathering people in community agencies who work with parents, in an effort to work on parenting, specifically in Peel region
 - The question was raised if this is for parents of children in the 0-6 year old range; if not, it was suggested this sub-committee connect with Lisa regarding the work she is accomplishing
 - The comment was made that any new parenting package this committee creates would have to then be approved, so it was suggested the package be created and then the committee will find the person to present it to for approval – Dorothy volunteered to speak with trustees from the schools to figure out the best route to take with the package
 - It was suggested that committee members ask teachers or principals what resources they have for parents
 - Leslie, Meeta, and Diane stated they would pursue this with principals and teachers they have access to
 - Important to find out what gaps are seen in parenting information for the middle years, as this committee does not see new parenting packages to be about duplication of existing information
 - Creating a survey was discussed as the most efficient method of obtaining the information required, as this committee deems it important to find a way to get the message out that parenting is important

- This survey would first be used with member's contacts, and then more generally in both Elementary School Boards, with an understanding that the concentration are on the Middle Years
 - **Draft of Survey**
 - **Blurb:** Introductory paragraph on the importance of parenting (or should that be parent education?) and the importance of developing/supporting positive parent/child relationships.
 - **Questions:**
 - i. What type of parenting education materials do you have available for parents/families?
 - ii. Checklist re: Does your parenting education information include:
 - Stages of development
 - Bullying/cyberbullying
 - Community agencies and resources
 - Sexuality
 - Discipline
 - Communication
 - Conflict Resolution/Peace Promoting initiatives
 - Safe School Act
 - iii. Is your school proactively involved in the Safe School Act (progressive discipline)?
 - iv. How do your parents access information regarding parent education?
 - v. What do you think are the gaps in parent education information you provide? What is missing in your school that would promote parent education?
 - vi. What are the mediums that you suggest would enable parents to learn about parenting? For example:
 - Written materials
 - Websites
 - Community groups
 - Groups in your school

Do you have any suggestions of other mediums to efficiently relay information to parents?
 - The importance of finding different ways to cover as many formats as possible to disseminate the information to parents was reiterated
 - Discussion during next meeting should include how do to tell parents that parenting is important, while empowering parents; this group needs to concentrate on the empowerment of the parents
9. Next Steps
 - Think about these questions for discussion
 - Speak to education contacts first, if they are strong contacts

NEXT MEETING: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 12, 2008 @ 2 County Court, Brampton, Suite 440