New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN)
Steering Committee Meeting
Mahalia Jackson Elementary, 2405 Jackson Ave
June 18, 2025 | 10am - 12pm

Minutes

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Steering Committee of the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) was held on June 18, 2025, at 10am at Mahalia Jackson. Thema French, chair, presided over the meeting.

Attendees

Steering Committee Members in Attendance
Stacey Barquet, Tomorrow Fondal, Thelma French (Chair), Amy Hook-Poirier, Asya Howlette, Sheraé Hunter, Jonika Julian-Harris, Tonia Loria, Joy Mitchell, Angelique Morris Francois, Yolanda Motley, Emmy O'Dwyer, Melanie Richardson (Proxy - Ashley Butler), Jen Roberts, Monique B. Rouege, Rochelle Wilcox (Vice Chair)

Guests in Attendance
Nick Kindel

Steering Committee Members Not in Attendance
Dr. Fateama Fulmore, Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire, Kate Mehok (Parliamentarian), Amanda Peek, Benita Plaisance

Approval of Minutes

Joy Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025 Steering Committee Meeting, which was seconded by Asya Howlette.

Steering Committee Member Reports

Jonika Julian-Harris and Amy Hook-Poirier presented the Coordinated Enrollment Report, including the Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Report and updates on ECEF and LA4 Audits, highlights for the 24-25 academic year, enrollment rates, CCAP B-3 transition, and CFR seat allocations upon closure of the legislative session.

- Steering Committee members discussed potential impacts of audit results and related adjustments and advocacy, fluctuating eligibility requirements from the LDOE, determination and communication around eligibility for funding sources as outlined by the CFR, the value of minimum seat allocations, and a potential policy forum for local candidates to share their positions on early childhood.

Amy Hook-Poirier presented the NOEEN Executive Subcommittee and CFR Working Group Reports.

- Steering Committee members discussed adjustments to the proposed dates for 2025 - 2026 and appreciation for the work of the CFR Working Group.

Other Reports

Nicholas Kindel presented the Facilities Fund Working Group Report.

- Steering Committee members discussed the status of remaining funding.

Motions

On the motion of Thelma French, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Report.

On the motion of Thelma French, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the Ready Start Network and Mileage Capacity Building Report.

On the motion of Thelma French, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the NOEEN Executive Subcommittee, CFR and Facilities Fund Working Group Reports.

On the motion of Emmy O'Dwyer, seconded by Asya Howlette, the Steering Committee voted to recommend that the following sites (Rainbow Academy and Preschool, Rainbow Academy and Preschool Too, TCA @ Viney Reynolds Child Development Center, Carolyn Green Ford Early Learning Center, Giggles Child Development Center, Small World Academy LTD, Temple's Preschool Education Foundation) should be considered for allocations of publicly-funded ECEF/City Seats, should funding be available, based on meeting the criteria outlined in the 2025-2026 CFR process.

Yes: Stacey Barquet, Tomorrow Fondal, Asya Howlette, Sheraé Hunter, Joy Mitchell, Angelique Morris Francois, Yolanda Motley, Emmy O'Dwyer, Melanie Richardson (Proxy - Ashley Butler), Monique B. Rouege, Rochelle Wilcox
No: None
Abstentions: Thelma French, Tonia Loria, Jen Roberts

Announcements

Potential dates and times of upcoming NOEEN Steering Committee meetings were announced.

Adjournment

Thelma French moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was agreed upon at 11:53am.