ECER 2023 Network 8 – Health & Wellbeing Education Meeting Notes

Agenda and Matters Discussed

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Overview of Network (Venka)
3. Network Dinner signup
4. Update from link convenor meeting (Ros) and invitation to contribute to handbook on organizational education
5. Collaborations with other SIGs – do we want any joint symposia in ECER 2024?
6. Network updates on publications / collaborations
7. Network collaborations – journal / books / projects
8. Reflections on the conference
9. AOB

Notes

The meeting was attended by approximately 40 people, a significant number of whom were new to the network. After outlining the work of the network and providing updates on the points above there was a general discussion to gauge reactions to the conference and to start to share interests to provide a starting point for future projects.

In relation to the conference, it was clear that network members were happy to be able to meet face-to-face There were some comments about our room allocation. Whilst it was good both rooms were in the same building this had been difficult to locate initially as signage to the chemistry department wasn't that clear. One room was an old-fashioned lecture theatre (where the meeting took place) which did not lend itself to collaborative discussion. This room was also extremely cold. It was noted that one session had been highly disrupted by a fire alarm and no information had been provided in advance that this was a test. There were limited toilet facilities which were not easy to find in the building and these were very old and a little dysfunctional. It was unclear where coffee could be found in the breaks as there was none in the building.

In focusing in on our own network review process drawing on the useful data provided by EERA on the website, we reflected that there was a lack of diversity in submissions in relation to national context. However, the standard of presentations within network sessions was high. We also noted the successful collaboration with network 18 in our two joint sessions. However, a number of issues were made as below:

- There was a lack of diversity in speakers, which also extended to the keynote speakers. We noted it would be good to see an indigenous keynote speaker at the next conference.
- There was also a lack of diversity in the session formats this year – previously we have had workshops / panel discussions. We would like to see more of these in future ECER conferences in the network. We would also like to see other formats that would enable more discussion.
- The standard format of 20 minutes presentation and 10 minutes questions did not allow a lot of time for in-depth discussion. We would like to see presentations capped at 15 minutes to enable more discussion and support networking / idea generation (we noted the 2022 book on wellbeing and schooling that is part of the EERA book series and the book on school food both came out of extended conversations over several sessions on those topics). Could the information on presentation types be made more explicit on this matter.

- It was difficult to foster a sense of belonging when the first session was set up as two parallel sessions – in future we would ask if possible that the first session is not a parallel session for this network. If this isn't possible could a session 0 be created as a space for networks to meet before the formal opening ceremony.
- Allowing a few moments in a session to talk in pairs (for instance at the end of presentations to share general impressions) would help foster relationships.
- Whilst the network dinner was welcomed, informing people on the day was too late as some had made alternative plans. It would be good to also introduce the idea of a network lunch. Could the App be improved to include a network group mailing function for swift communication?
- We noted the lack of coffee facilities in the building had limited networking opportunities.
- We wondered whether the conference had in fact become too large in terms of sessions and considered whether participants should be limited to 1 submission.
- Although the mailing list was welcomed, there was a desire for a more interactive platform for communication and collaborative activity between conferences.

(Minute taker: Ros McLellan)