



DISTRICT 196

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes

March 15, 2022

Minutes

Members present: Melissa Dunlay, Sam Gaylord, Ashley Holien, Katie Rudolph, Caitlin Sipe, Matthew Winter (Co-Chair), and District 196 Board member Bianca Virnig

ISD 196 Staff present: Jenna Ruble and Dacia Liszka

Call to Order

Chairperson Matthew Winter called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of February 15, 2022 minutes

Matthew Winter called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting, Sam Gaylord made a motion to approve the minutes, Katie Rudolph seconded and full council approved.

ECFS Program Updates

ECFE – Jenna Ruble shared the lottery placement has been completed for Spring 2022 ECFE classes. The ECFE team has received feedback regarding additional offering ideas/requests from ECFE attendees. Jenna was happy to share that a few of those ideas are strongly being considered for next school year. They include a Tuesday evening class, a Saturday class and short-term series classes.

Connections Preschool – Jenna Ruble shared the 2022-2023 Connections Preschool application is now open and the brochure was mailed to families in addition to being posted on Connections Preschool website. She also shared that next school year we will have two new sites, in addition to two additional 3's classes, which creates roughly 90 new spots. Through the "No Child Left Indoors Grant" she is looking to open a class that will be held outdoors and will mirror a current model at a school in Duluth.

Committee Updates

Snow Much Fun! – Matthew Winter shared a recap of the Event:

- Created 148 bags
- Pick up:
 - 50 registered
 - 9 unregistered
 - 30 were given to Family School
 - 9 reserved for late pick ups
- \$30 in cash donations
- Cost \$512.50

Although this event was not as successful as we hoped, it still is important to do, as this is a way to connect with the community. Our hope is that we can return to an in-person event next year, as historically these events have been very well attended. Leftover activity bags were disassembled and we plan to use the supplies next year or for other event needs.

Family School Book Drive – Katie Bothun was not present at this meeting but provided Matthew Winter with a brief update that the plans for the Family School Book Drive are moving ahead nicely and as planned. She will provide more details at the next Advisory Council meeting. The book collection will begin in April 2022 and the kids will “shop” for books to bring home the 2nd week in May 2022.

Teacher Appreciation week May 3, 2022 – Heather Blair will email the Council a few ideas to vote on for this event. She will also include a sign-up sheet for the assembly and distribution of the winning idea. Each member should respond to Heather with his or her top two choices. There are currently 68 teachers and support staff at the 12 sites.

Liaison Updates

196 Legislative Advisory Council meeting on February 16, 2022 – Heather Blair attended but was not present at the Council meeting tonight to provide an update.

ECFS Foundation meeting on February 24, 2022 – Matthew Winter attended this meeting. Updates he shared were that this is a small but mighty committee. A few current members are leaving the ECFS Foundation at the end of this school year. They are currently recruiting for the replacements now and have three applicants that used to be on the ECFS Advisory Council. The ECFS Foundation approved the funds for the Teacher Appreciation event.

Community Ed Advisory Council meeting on March 8, 2022 – Melissa Dunlay attended this meeting. Updates she shared were the District 196 preliminary budget for the 2022-2023 school year is open. The council has a new Chair and Vice Chair. The Council is revamping the fee assistance program and will be moving to a sliding fee scale, in which an individual can request via an online request so long as they are a District 196 resident. The Starry Night Gala is coming up. The Council had several breakout sessions for the council members to brainstorm ideas on how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of District 196 Community Education next year.

Superintendent Parent Leader meeting on March 15, 2022 – Ashley Holien attended this meeting. Updates she shared were 12 of the 14 local legislators attended. They discussed various needs for additional funding to assist with the growing staff in District 196, additional Pre-K space, Mental Health services with a goal to have Mental Health Services available in every school with the flexibility to adjust if needed based on the individual school’s needs. Currently waiting for the Safe Learning Money bill for Mental Health to pass. Additionally want to focus on equity for all children across the district, additional support for adults with disabilities, and helping teachers work through the gaps that have been created over the last two years due to the pandemic.

Upcoming Events

April 2022	Family School Book Drive	DVLC	All month long
April 19, 2022	Superintendent Parent Leader meeting	Zoom	Group 1 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Group 2 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
April 20, 2022	196 Legislative Advisory Council meeting	AVHS	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
TBD – May 2022	ECFS Foundation meeting	TBD	6:15 – 8:00 p.m.
May 3, 2022	Teacher Appreciation Event	All sites	TBD
May 10, 2022	Community Education Advisory Council meeting	In Person	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Other Business

New Advisory Council Member – Laura Bjork who attended the ECFS Advisory Council meeting on February 15, 2022 asked to join the April meeting as a new Council member. Matthew Winter asked the council to vote; the vote amongst the Council was unanimously “In Favor.” Laura Bjork was appointed as a new ECFS Advisory Council member starting in April 2022.

Advisory Council Co-chair opening for next school year – Matthew Winter shared that he will be stepping down as Co-chair lead at the end of this school year and current co-chair Heather Blair will become the Co-chair lead for next school year. Matthew asked that the current council members to either self-nominate or nominate a member. This is a 5 hour commitment per month and includes a 45 minute monthly co-chair meeting to plan the current months Advisory Council meeting,

Advisory Council communication – Matthew Winter will set up WhatsApp group for the council.

Advisory Council meeting structure for next year – Matthew Winter asked the committee to think about how they would like the meetings structured next year, i.e. how they would like to meet (in person or Zoom), etc. The structure can be shaped how the Council wants it and what will best work for the group.

Fall Open House community event – Matthew Winter will schedule a meeting for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 starting at 6:15 p.m. and will email a sign-up sheet to the Council. This meeting will be in person with childcare. Matthew shared the importance of beginning the planning of this event now, if we wait until Fall it unfortunately will be too late.

Adjournment

There being no further business Matthew Winter called for a motion to adjourn, Katie Rudolf made a motion to adjourn, Melissa Dunlay seconded, and full council approved. The meeting ended at 8:17 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

3rd Tuesday, every month - April 19, May 17

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka