



DISTRICT 196
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
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Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes
April 19, 2022

Minutes

Members present: Laura Bjork, Heather Blair (Co-Chair) Jennifer Bordonaro, Katie Bothun, Melissa Dunlay, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Sam Gaylord, Ashley Holien, Katie Rudolph, Caitlin Sipe, Matthew Winter (Co-Chair), and guests Katie Jewell and Maddy Brown.

ISD 196 Staff present: Jenna Ruble and Dacia Liszka

Call to Order

Chairperson Matthew Winter called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of March 15, 2022 minutes

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

ECFS Program Updates

ECFE – Jenna Ruble shared registration for ECFE summer classes will be open from April 25, 2022 – May 17, 2022. The summer program will include twelve classes, which includes a topics class, infant class, and one outdoor class.

Connections Preschool – Jenna Ruble shared that Connections Preschool received a grant specifically for families with children entering kindergarten that have had limited or no preschool experience. She is hopeful that we can support these families through our Summer Pre-kindergarten Program so long as there are enough families who are able to attend. Applications are currently being accepted from invited families. She asked the council to pass along the contact information of any family they knew that could benefit from this program.

Committee Updates

Family School Book Drive – Katie Bothun shared things are moving along smoothly. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022 from 5:15-6:15 at the Dakota Valley Learning Center.

Teacher Appreciation week May 3, 2022 – Heather Blair will choose the theme for the appreciation gifts and purchase the items. Monday, May 2, 2022 any interested council members can attend the assembly meeting from 6:15-7:45 p.m. at the Dakota Valley Learning Center and all appreciation gifts will be delivered to each site on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Jenna and Dacia will provide the list of names/sites to Heather.

Liaison Updates

Superintendent Parent Leader meeting on April 19, 2022 – Jennifer Bordonaro attended this meeting. Coordinator of Health Services Deb Mehr said there is an increase in COVID-19 cases, but the transmission rate continues to remain low, using the newer metrics issued in late-February by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. The transmission rate is based on the number of new cases per 100,000 people and comparing it to hospital admissions and staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Schools still have face masks and at-home tests available for families to use. Parents, students and employees should continue to be cautious with social gatherings, monitor symptoms and stay home when sick.

Director of Communications Tony Taschner said legislators have a few weeks left in the legislative session. Even though it is not a funding session, the district continuously communicates its funding-related needs. Taschner described two important areas the district addresses every year: the inflation lag on the general education funding formula and the special education cross subsidy. First, the general education funding formula determines how much funding school districts receive from state revenue based on the number of students. The formula has increased over time, but not at the rate of inflation since 2003. If the formula would be adjusted for inflation, each student would receive \$700 more in funding. Second, when the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or formerly known as the Education for All Handicapped Children pre-1990, was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to funding 40 percent of the mandated special education services. To this day, only about 14 percent is funded. The special education cross subsidy is the amount of funds used from the general fund to ensure students are receiving special education services. School districts are committed to serving all students but needs the funds to do so. In the 2019-20 school year, there was a \$27.9 million special education cross subsidy. When the state and federal government enact unfunded mandates, school districts have to use money from their general funds or ask for money from their taxpayers through referendums. Taschner said the School Board approved a resolution to support the Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act in Congress. The basics of the resolution instruct the federal government to implement a plan to address and fully fund the cross subsidy. Taschner said the district sent the signed resolution to U.S. Representative Angie Craig, Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Tina Smith.

Superintendent Mary Kreger reminded parents that the district continues to look for paraprofessionals and substitutes and encouraged those interested to apply.

Superintendent Mary Kreger said social media has become more of a problem for children and teenagers, and the problems that bubble from social media continue into the school day, where administrators are having to track down students and decipher anonymous accounts to address the behavior. This has inadvertently become a community expectation that schools are responsible to address inappropriate behavior on social media. Kreger said the district will be starting a campaign for the next school year to work together as a community to stop the ongoing issues of on social media platforms. District technology has filters and blocks the use of social media platforms. There are different expectations for student cell phones in each of the buildings, so administration will look into this to create more consistent expectations.

Upcoming Events

April 2022	Family School Book Drive	DVLC	All month long
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.
May 17, 2022	Superintendent Parent Leader meetings	ZOOM	Group 1 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Group 2 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
May 25 or June 1, 2022	196 Legislative Advisory Council meeting	AVHS	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
June 12, 2022	ECFS Advisory Council Rain Garden Clean-up	DVLC	3:30 p.m.
June 12, 2022	ECFS Advisory Council End of Year Picnic	DVLC	5:30 p.m.

Other Business

Advisory Council Co-chair opening for next school year – There were two nominees, Katie Rudolf and Sam Gaylord. 11 council members submitted their individual vote to Jenna Ruble during the council meeting. Newly elected co-chair Katie Rudolf will begin her new role starting in August 2022.

End of the year picnic and rain garden clean-up –These two events will be held on Sunday, June 12, 2022 starting at 3:30 p.m. with the rain garden clean-up followed by the end of the year picnic. Jenna confirmed that the big truck will be available for garden waste disposal and that she will provide tools but asked members to bring gloves and shovels for thistles. For the picnic, each family will bring their own food and blanket to sit on. Foundation members and Advisory Council alumni will also be invited.

Fall Open House community event – The Advisory Council will support the open houses happening at each elementary school by welcoming families, answering any questions and sharing more about the ECFS Advisory Council, with a goal of recruiting a few new members.

District 196 Community Education 50th Anniversary - Matthew Winter shared that the Advisory Council will support the ongoing District 196 50th anniversary of Continuing Education celebration later this year. The launch of this celebration will be sometime in November 2022. Final details are still pending and will be shared in our meeting next month.

Adjournment

There being no further business Matthew Winter called for a motion to adjourn, Heather Blair made a motion to adjourn, Melissa Dunlay seconded, and full council approved. The meeting ended at 8:13 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

3rd Tuesday, every month - May 17

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka