



**Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes
January 17, 2023**

Minutes

Members present: Laura Bjork, **Heather Blair**, Jennifer Bordonaro, Melissa Dunlay, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Sam Gaylord, Therine Liss, **Katie Rudolph**, and Ruku Viswanthan (staff liaison)

ISD 196 Staff present: Jenna Ruble, Kristi Hanson and Dacia Liszka

Guest: Jamie

Call to Order

Chairperson Heather Blair called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of December 20, 2022 minutes

Chairperson called for motion to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 meeting and full council approved.

ECFS Program Updates – Jenna Ruble and Kristi Hanson

- ECFE
 - Kristi shared that ECFE Winter registration closes on January 19, 2023. There are currently 359 children and 283 families enrolled for the winter quarter. Both the baby and virtual class have low numbers. The baby class registration will stay open until spring quarter registration opens.
- Connections Preschool
 - Jenna shared that we are currently in the planning stages for the 2023-24 school year. At this time, we do not have a set date as to when the application will open. There is currently a link on the Connections Preschool website that families can enter their name and email address to be added to the notification request list.
- ECFS Advocacy Group
 - At the Minnesota State Capital on March 15, 2023. The purpose is to bring forward the voice of young children to our Senators and State Representatives. We gauged interest from the Council regarding their thoughts on attending. If a decision is made by the council to attend more planning will take place (i.e. transportation, appointments with our representatives to tell “their” story, etc.).

Liaison Updates

Community Education Advisory Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023

<https://ce.district196.org/community/ce-advisory-council>

Melissa Dunlay attended this meeting. Updates shared:

- Mark presented District 196 Facilities long range plan and bond referendum. There will be a special election on May 9, 2023 with a 2-question ballot regarding the ISD 196 bond referendum:
 - #1) Addresses safety, security and supervision; space for growth; and consistent experience in schools. This would cost taxpayers approximately \$11.50/month on an average home of \$400,000.
 - #2) Addresses adding additional activity center space at each of the district's four comprehensive high schools and could only happen if question #1 passes. This would cost the taxpayers approximately \$7.00/month on an average home of \$400,000.
- River Valley Project Explore Programs (RVPE)- Patty Vance
Patty presented a recap of River Valley Project Explore programs for adults with disabilities.
 - o RVPE is a consortium with four other districts: Burnsville, Farmington, Lakeville and Randolph. However, participants come from all over the Twin Cities to join these high-quality classes.
 - o The program is for adults with cognitive, physical, developmental or sensory disabilities and is one of the few organized social, educational and recreational outlets available to them.
 - o The consortium receives \$13,314 of state aid each year, which has not been increased in over 30 years. Some smaller districts get more money. Lobbying for equitable funding throughout the state is a goal of MN Community Education this year.
 - o Join us for Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast fundraiser on April 29 at Messiah Lutheran church from 8:30 to 11:30. This popular fundraiser helps keep program costs down. Many participants are on a fixed income.
- Review & vote on recommended changes to Bylaws
- Nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2023-24

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 18, 2023	196 Legislative Advisory Council	Apple Valley High School	6:00-7:30 pm
Tuesday, January 24, 2023	Superintendent Parent Leader Meeting	Will receive in an email	Group 1: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Group 2: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
TBD February 2023	ECFS Foundation Meeting	DVLC	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023	Community Education Advisory Council	Zoom	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Committee Updates

Family School Book Drive

- Kristi Hanson and Meredith Eilertson Azeem are leading the Family School Book Drive. 700 new and gently used books (ages 3- 5 years old) are needed. There will be various collections sites in DVLC classrooms or via a drop box at the DVLC. The books collected will be distributed to Family School students before summer break (around May 1, 2023). Each of the students will get to “shop” for 10 books. Paper or reusable shopping bags are also needed for the students. The committee is currently looking for donations. Any additional books will potentially be donated to Dakota Woodlands, Connections Preschool students and free neighborhood libraries.

Winter Event on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. held at the DVLC

- Schedule another in person committee meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 to continue planning for this event.
 - Katie Rudolf secured a DJ for the event (Ben).
 - Smaller activities
 - Silent Auction
 - The committee has reached out to several businesses for donation requests and has heard back from a few. We are still eager for donations.
 - Deliveries/drop-offs can be sent to Dacia's attention at DVLC
 - Laura has volunteered to be the Silent Auction organizer. All donations are due by February 20, 2023.

Adjournment

There being no further business Melissa Dunlay made a motion to adjourn, Laura Bjork seconded and full council approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

3rd Tuesday, every month - February 21, 2023, March 21, 2023, April 18, 2023, and May 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka