



**Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes
November 19, 2024**

Minutes

Members present: Laura Bjork, Megan Bollinger, Adriana de la Cadena, Manuel Diaz, **Jamie Duffey, Melissa Dunlay**, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Jessica Glenn, Jorge González Castro, Sasha Hiatt-Blenkush, Dave Kerber, Brianna Riofski, Katie Rudolph, Sabrina Silver, Ruku Viswanathan and Lenica Zaragoza

Guest: Mark Riofski

ISD 196 Staff present: Zachary Gonsioroski and Kristi Hanson

Call to Order

Chairperson Melissa Dunlay called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of October 15, 2024 minutes

Chairperson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024 meeting and full council approved.

ECFS Program Overview – Zachary Gonsioroski and Kristi Hanson

- **Early Childhood Education (ECFE)**
 - Winter registration for ECFE is open and December 3, 2024 is the deadline for the lottery.
 - A new class Empowering Generational Greatness (EGG) has been added as a pilot for the Winter quarter.
 - The Fall quarter had the second highest numbers since 2016.
- **Connections Preschool**
 - Finalizing tuition fee market study which includes surrounding private and public programs. Notable compared to previous but it is needed to be competitive. Next week the cabinet will review and pending the outcome it will be brought to the School Board for final approval.
 - Currently in the planning stages for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - New boundary lines were approved by the School Board.

Liaison Updates

ECFS Foundation Meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2024. – Katie Rudolph and Laura Bjork attended this meeting. Updates shared: The majority of the meeting was to review grant requests from the teachers that were submitted to the Foundation. Grants submitted by teachers included an array of items such as: wind tunnel, balls, toddler sized sensory table, cool and fun stuff outside of normal classroom. There is \$4800.00 available for grant requests and with those that submitted the entire amount was not spent. They will do a second round to see if there are more grant requests from the teachers. The current ECFS Foundation balance is \$29,302. QR code directly to the Foundation, same one from October. The ECFS Advisory Council requested a budget around \$500 for the Winter Family Fun event and \$275.00 for Teacher appreciation. They received the fundraising check from Chipotle and paid for the Jolly Pops that performed at the ECFE

50th Birthday Bash.

District 196 Superintendent Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. – Meredith Eilertson Azeem and Laura Bjork attended these meetings. Updates shared: breakfast in December, School Board elected Leah Gardner, School Board will appoint two more members and are accepting applications through November 26, 2024. Special meeting will be held to appoint and elect the two new members. 69 ballot questions for funding & 29 passed, Burnsville & Inver Grove Heights passed. Farmington, Lakeville did not pass. Attendance meetings, research assessment & analytics coordinator, middle school take attendance every hour, elementary school will have a call to check and process to report an absence.

District 196 Legislative Advisory Council on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. – Sabrina Silver and Dave Kerber attended. Updates shared: listened to coordinator of technology based on why tech is in class. 2015 tech levy on year 9 currently. Will likely go back to voters and become a referendum. 2023 legislation for the first-time approved funding for computer science. Joint meeting with budget advisory council including roundtable talk regarding PDF provided and trying to fund the unmet needs, no new initiatives, bus driver unemployment was a topic, testing standards for special education. ECFE Capital Day potentially February 25, 2025 but could happen on March 12, 2025 from 9-12 and is a kid friendly event & crafts. Council members seemed in favor of attending it and items that would be in line.

Community Education Advisory Council on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. – Melissa Dunlay attended. Updates shared: Reviewing budget and by laws, forming summer community ed subcommittee focus group, aquatics is stressful to sign up and they are actively searching ways to improve, subcommittee on community needs assessment and Community Education apparel selling at cost until November 21, 2024.

Committee Updates

Fundraising

- Next meeting is December 11, 2024 from 6:15 – 8:15

- **Restaurant Fundraisers**
 - o Panera in Eagan - December 11, 2024 from 4-8 PM pending final details.
 - o Discuss at the next meeting about continuing at various restaurants.

- **Winter Family Fun Event – February 22, 2025 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
 - o Planning underway:
 - Start reaching out to companies requesting items to be donated to auction. Companies do not have to be in the district. Cannot advertise outside of the district.
 - Bigger named items - sports venues want 12-week notice
 - Donation letter & tax letter saved in the file
 - Appreciation letter signed by Zachary G
 - Social Media Thank You discussed from last year
 - Add sponsor levels to the donor list recognition page
 - Title of event, Marketing – Adriana can assist with this
 - Silent Auction List – update
 - Bring in your extra baskets for the auction – wicker or plastic
 - Confirming DJ for dance party
 - Similar set-up to last year:
 - Photo booth, silent auction, hoops, paper airplanes, snacks & beverages, face painting, dark room, room to build ramps, infant & toddler area, quiet room, craft room -necklace, fishing station and sensory friendly room.
 - o Bidding Owl -opted to not allow to see bidding and they take 5%.
 - There's another site that doesn't take the percentage and Megan will email information.
 - o We can't do it without you! - Full Participation
 - Hope to have all ECFS members present to volunteer and we have

done shifts in the past.

Hospitality

- Parent-Teacher Conference Meal on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 was a success and confirmed that 1 day is good.

Education and Planning

- Update from meeting:
 - o Talked about planning and marketing at library and market fest
 - Table and/or booths.
 - Different affinity groups for themed areas
 - o Challenges are not having teachers not being able to accommodate
 - o Review previous topics
 - o Can we move the “request interpreter language” to the front of the catalog?
 - o Checking to see that content is unique to each

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 14, 2025	Community Education Advisory Council – Melissa	Zoom	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	Superintendent Parent Leader Meeting – Meredith (a.m.) & Laura (p.m.)	Zoom	Group 1: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Group 2: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	ECFS Foundation Meeting – Katie	DVLC	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	196 Legislative Advisory Council – Sabrina and Dave	District Office 3455 153rd Street West., Rosemount	6:00-7:30 p.m.

Other Business

- Social Gathering in lieu of December 10, 2024 meeting.
 - o Potluck style hosted by Katie
 - o Gift exchange game – bring a \$10.00 gift if you want to participate.

Adjournment

There being no further business Melissa Dunlay made a motion to adjourn, Dave Kerber seconded and full council approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

3rd Tuesday, every month - December 10, 2024, January 21, 2025, February 18, 2025, March 18, 2025, April 15, 2025, and May 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka