



DISTRICT 196

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes

January 21, 2025

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, Adrienne Rysavy, Sabrina Silver, and Ruku Viswanathan

Guest: Abby Bross, Emily Poole, Mark Riofski

ISD 196 Staff present: Zachary Gonsioroski

Call to Order

Chairperson Melissa Dunlay called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of November 19, 2024 minutes

Chairperson called for motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting and full council approved.

ECFS Program Overview – Zachary Gonsioroski

Early Childhood Education (ECFE)

- ECFE winter enrollment and new classes: 687 kids, down 50 kids vs last year.
- 2023-2024 school year we severed a combination of over 1,400 parents & kids.

– Connections Preschool

- Preschool application opens the week of February 10, 2025.
- New 4-year-old classes will be added at Redpine, Rosemount Elementary and Emerald Trail Elementary.
- The monthly tuition for the 2025-2026 school year increased,
- Staff is halfway through mandated literacy training.
- Job postings for licensed staff at the beginning of March. Non-licensed staff postings will be later in the Spring.
- Concerns about recent executive orders regarding ICE agents allowed to come into schools. There are district policies in place.

Liaison Updates

District 196 Superintendent Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. – Meredith Eilertson Azeem and Laura Bjork attended these meetings. Updates shared: school board updates - Leah Gardner sworn in, new seats opened, two new people appointed. Talked about bond project update, new school named Emerald Trail, net zero emission school, new Rosemount school construction started, safety & security updates: new visitor & management updates through IDs, enhanced security systems, increase in vaping - installing detectors for supervision, lockdown system sends alarm system messages out, two way radio updates - infrastructure updates needed for radios, cell phone policy - off & away elementary

& middle school - high school not allowed during class - there are exceptions, new curriculums grade level specific, easier to find on school website, WIN program update - currently not included in budget and FASTBRIDGE - assessment system.

Community Education Advisory Council on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. – Sabrina Silver attended.

Updates shared: School board director was present, enrollment age, swimming lessons, website navigation, budget approved, no changes to bylaws and subcommittee starting for future offerings.

Committee Updates

Fundraising

- Next meeting is February 18, 2025 from 5:30-6:15
- **Restaurant Fundraisers**
 - Panera in Eagan on December 11, 2024 from 4-8 PM raised roughly \$200.00
 - The next fundraiser will be held at Punch Pizza in Apple Valley on Wednesday, March 5 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- **Winter Family Fun Event – February 22, 2025 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
 - Planning underway:
 - Continue 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.
 - Push for in-person restaurant donations
 - 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
 - Tag companies in comments
 - Add sponsor levels to the donor list recognition page
 - Silent Auction List – update
 - Bring in your extra baskets for the auction – wicker or plastic to meeting on February 10, 2025.
 - Supplementing baskets - small item/monetary donations from members: can bring in wine, coffee, supplies, little basketballs, yoga mat can be donated with gym & water bottle & they will send out a list added to the bottom of the donation list
 - Confirmed DJ for dance party- set up on Friday or early Saturday
 - 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.
 - Add a survey at the fishing station – “How people found out about the event.”
 - We can’t do it without you! - Full Participation is our goal!
 - Hope to have all ECFS members present.
 - Volunteers
 - 11 high school volunteers so far
 - Staff volunteers 3-5
 - Foundation volunteers

Hospitality

- Parent-Teacher Conference Meal on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. We will provide a taco bar, bring food by 4:00 p.m. as set up is covered, need volunteers to assist with cleanup. We will send an email to DVLC families to request various food item donations for the taco bar.

Education and Planning

- Set date for next meeting

Outdoor Spaces

- No update as Katie wasn't at the meeting

Family School Book Drive

- No updates to share at this time.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 5, 2025	ECFS Foundation Meeting – Katie and Laura	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.
Tuesday, March 4, 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.
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	Community Education Advisory Council – Melissa	Zoom	6:00-7:30 p.m.

Other Business

Day at the Capital – Friday, February 28, 2025. A flyer will go out next week, Jolly Pop will be available, if enough interest, budget approved for a bus 10:00 - 11:00 (no snacks, tape or food). Looking for a volunteer to take videos to send to legislatures, using a hashtag, and an email will be sent out to gauge interest in going to this event.

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 - February 18, 2025, March 18, 2025, April 15, 2025, and May 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka