



DISTRICT 196

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

One District. Infinite Possibilities.

Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes

October 14, 2025

Minutes

Members present: Miranda Birchard, Laura Bjork, Megan Bollinger, Abby Bross, Manuel Diaz, **Jamie Duffey**, Melissa Dunlay, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Jessica Glenn, Sasha Hiatt-Blenkush, **Dave Kerber**, Brianna Riofski, Mark Riofski, and Adrienne Rysavy

ISD 196 Staff present: Zachary Gonsioroski and Kristi Hanson

Call to Order

Chairperson Jamie Duffey called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of September 9, 2025 minutes

Chairperson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting and full council approved.

ECFS Program Overview

ECFE - Kristi Hanson

- Winter catalog is in progress, expected arrival November 7.
- A new photo is required for the catalog.
- One class was cancelled and replaced with Toddler Playtime on Monday mornings.
- Connections opened to out-of-district families.
- Marketing efforts are underway targeting out-of-census data and low enrollment areas (notably Red Pine and afternoon classes).
- Enrollment continues to be monitored.

ECFS - Zachary Gonsioroski

- The budget opened last week and we are currently midway through the budget cycle.
- Financial standing is comfortable and better than forecasted.

Tech Levy Presentation

- The Tech Levy funds devices, software, and cybersecurity.
- It provides annual funding for up to 10 years.
- Tax impact: approximately \$7/month, generating \$15.5 million annually.
- Each funding stream is dedicated to its purpose, making it essential to secure technology-specific funding.
- If not passed, the district will seek alternative funding sources.
- Feedback and suggestions can be added to a Google Doc that Zachary will forward to Janet (Communications Lead).
- Questions arose about devices coming home with students.
- Melissa Dunlay expressed interest in discussing technology education and devices with Community Ed.

Committee Updates

Jamie:

- Jessica will now lead the auction.
- Brianna continues leading Outdoor Spaces.
- Adrienne will lead Fundraising.

Fundraising – Lead: Adrienne

- Next fundraiser: Punch Pizza, Nov. 6 (11:30 AM – 8 PM), 20% of proceeds donated.
- Goal: establish a monthly fundraiser schedule.

Hospitality – Lead: Melissa

- Fall Conferences: Oct. 29–30 at DVLC.
- Meal Plan: Taco & baked potato bar to serve ~70 staff.
- Set-up: 4:00 PM (earlier than 4:30).
- Volunteers: Sasha & Dave.
- Cleanup at 7 PM (wash and store dishes).
- Donation link emailed; welcome to contribute food or containers.
- Looking for extra help with upstairs setup to enhance the space.

Education & Planning – Lead: Sasha

- Sent out an update email.
- Next meeting: Oct. 28, 5:15 PM (invite to be sent by Kristi).

Legislative, Advocacy, and Policy – Lead: Sabrina and Mark

- No additional updates.

Outdoor Spaces – Lead: Brianna

- Backyard Bash (Sept. 25, 2025) recap:
 - o Excellent turnout; featured in Macaroni Kids for free promotion.
 - o Donations: \$265, expenses: \$134.97, net gain: \$130.03.
- Considering a second booth with donations for the Winter Event.
- Eagle Scout volunteer update shared.

Family School – Lead: Abby

- Book Drive: Planning underway.

Liaison Updates

Community Education Advisory Council (Sept. 16, 2025) - Melissa and Megan

- Discussed tech levy and summer program feedback.
- Working on a program review and needs assessment survey.

District 196 Superintendent Parent Leader (Sept. 26, 2025) - Megan

- Updates on levy and surveys.
- Employee engagement survey: 70% participation, 90% proud to work for the district.
- Community survey showed high satisfaction rates compared to other districts.
- A family survey is planned for the future.

District 196 Legislative Advisory Council (Oct. 1, 2025) - Mark and Sabrina

- Discussed tech levy, budgeting, and bus driver for summer and unemployment.
- READ Act development underway—funding priority discussions to advocate for legislative support.

Foundation for Early Childhood Family Services (Oct. 9, 2025) - Meredith and Jamie

- Meeting rescheduled, no current update.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 18, 2025	Community Education Advisory Council – Melissa and Megan	DVLC	6:00-7:30 pm
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	Superintendent Parent Leader Meeting - Megan AM and Angie PM	Zoom	Group 1: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Group 2: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 19, 2025	196 Legislative Advisory Council – Mark and Sabrina	District Office 3455 153 rd Street West., Rosemount	6:00-7:30 pm
TBD	ECFS Foundation Meeting – Meredith and Jamie	DVLC	6:00-7:30 pm

Other Business

- Group Picture taken
- Next Steps / Action Items
 - Kristi: Send meeting invite for Education & Planning (10/28).
 - Zachary: Share Tech Levy feedback doc with Janet.
 - Adrienne: Finalize fundraiser calendar.
 - Sasha: Research t-shirt designs.
 - Jessica: Complete auction materials and letterhead.
 - Melissa: Oversee conference meal and volunteer coordination.
- Auction – Jessica
 - Created a Google Drive folder with instructions for donation requests.
 - Everyone asked to contact three businesses for donations and take notes.
 - Working on updated letterhead and thank-you letters.
 - Need a poster showing how previous Foundation funds were used.
 - Request for basket fillers and baskets of all sizes.
- Fundraising – Adrienne
 - Winter Family Fun Event: Feb. 28, 9:30–11:30 AM.
 - Flyer: Adriana will design.
 - Need new activity ideas; supplies running low.
 - Still have DJ and face painting confirmed.
 - Activity Ideas: paper chains, sticker crowns, yarn heart crafts, toddler-friendly stations.
 - Consider replacing the ball & cup room with water tables.
 - TV use for room rotations, photo booth app options (instant text to phone).
 - Fishing game setup needs to be sturdier; Zachary will bring a fridge box.
 - Discussed selling ECFE t-shirts (Will Enterprises); Sasha to research designs and send them to Adrienne.

Adjournment

There being no further business Jamie Duffey made a motion to adjourn, Manuel Diaz seconded and full council approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

2nd Tuesday, every month - November 11, 2025, December 9, 2025,
January 13, 2026, February 10, 2026, March 10, 2026, April 14, 2026, and May 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka