

Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes

February 10, 2026

Minutes

Members present:

Sasha Hiatt-Blenkush, Brianna Riofski, Mark Riofski, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, **Jamie Duffey**, Melissa Dunlay, Adrienne Rysavy, Manuel Diaz, Adriana de la Cadena, Jessica Glenn, Megan Bollinger, Laura Bjork, Miranda Birchard, Sabrina Silver, Jorge González Castro

ISD 196 Staff present: Zachary Gonsioroski and Kristi Hanson

Guests: Mark Breckenridge, Hannah Sheridan, Jasmine Rubio

Call to Order

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

Approval of January 13, 2026 minutes

Chairperson Jamie Duffey called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting and full council approved.

ECFS Program Overview

ECFE - Kristi Hanson

- March 3rd is deadline for ECFE placement & registration has started
- Survey on trimesters or quarters had low results.
 - Council discussed resending the survey & including in the end of class survey

ECFS - Zachary Gonsioroski

- Brochure getting mailed on 1/13/2026. Priority Window: First Wave - Feb 13-March 15
- Large marketing push, posters up during conferences to be registered and sign up to go live.
- The program would like to see enrollment go up. Connections video coming out soon.
 - Target enrollment estimated: 400 4-year-olds. 300 3-year-olds.
- Oak ridge classes will be nature based - meaning they will spend more time outside. AM & PM option.
 - Oak Ridge will have the same teachers and will be going down one class room.
- Pinewood in Eagan attendance has lagged. Considering offering a full day.
 - If classes are not filling thinking to add aftercare.
- Heading into staffing season feeling optimistic.

Liaison Updates

Foundation for Early Childhood Family Services (Wednesday, January 14, 2026) – Meredith

- Meeting primarily to formally remove Dacia from financial systems.

- Approved speaker to be purchased for the Winter Family Fun Event.
- Angel Fund talk tabled.
- The treasurer sent over a list of items they funded through last year's grant cycle - pics were received.
- Adriana is ok with creating posters for winter event to showcase items from grants.
- Foundation discussed making a basket for the auction. Next meeting Feb 18.

Legislative, Advocacy, and Policy (Wednesday, February 4, 2026) – Lead: Sabrina and Mark

- Not getting updates in their email for meeting times/locations.
- Advocacy Day on April 13th.

Community Education Advisory (Tuesday, January 20, 2026) – Lead: Melissa and Megan

- Parenting in the Digital Age Class coming up; 4 different locations and 4 different classes.
- Summer class list in February.
- Family Lego League and Family Trivia.
- Passed Bylaws.
- Went through legislative priorities for district. Legislative priorities school readiness program. Increase fees to offset costs. Needs survey returned 1100 responses – survey not fully assessed.
- Nominations for Vice Chair.

Committee Updates

Hospitality – Lead: Melissa

- Conference meal went well. There were a few things that didn't arrive but Laura & Jamie took care of it. The soups were gone. Sandwich stuff still available after.
- Note: Whoever sets up the tables need to be returned where they came from.
- Meeting for Teacher Appreciation *Next Hospitality meeting: prior to next meeting March 10th
 - o May 4th-8th
 - o Distribution to sites
 - o Food/Gift ideas

Fundraising – Lead: Adrienne

- No February Restaurant Fundraiser due to gifting in other areas
- Upcoming: Freddy's Wednesday, April 8th from 4pm-8pm
- Malekü Coffee: Interested in setting up a recurring fundraiser.
 - Considering Sunday March 8th. Time is not confirmed.
 - Discussion: Can they come for the event on the 28th.

Winter Family Fun Event & Auction

- 5 gallons of coffee coming from Caribou.
- Donation letter & appreciation letter saved in the file
 - Go back to the spreadsheet and verify donation was received and specifically requested by a member then send letter
- Discussed setup and clean up times. Passed out sign-up sheet
- Zachary will send out another staff volunteer request offering paid time
- Activities planned:

- Anna Duttke is asking to bring in School of Environmental Sciences to bring their animals and figurines. Paper air planes - ball and ramps - babies & toddlers room added - face paint - tattoos - necklace making - paper chain - paper plate activity - pre cutout shapes w/hole punch lacing activity (can email Adrienne to setup the paper plates) - DJ Miranda
- Kristi will be at the top of the stairs with preschool info and donation bucket

ECFS Food Drive partnered with Open Door – Meredith

- Thursday February 19th collecting in DVLC lobby 10AM
- Signup sheet passed around.
- People pull up to the curb and then go out and grab the items. Collecting in the back of the lobby. Collect and then deliver to Open Door the next day.

Motion to modify recorder ByLaw

- Old process required the Office Admin to finalize ECFS Meeting Notes. This will allow for recorder to enter notes in final draft mode for review. Full vote. Motion approved with 12 votes.

Motion to modify co-chair leave of absence/resign ByLaw

- Phrasing updated to allow co-chair to take leave, new co-chair voted for a two year term including the interim time frame should someone need to take a leave of absence.
- Full vote. Motion approved with 12 votes.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 18, 2026	ECFS Foundation Meeting – Meredith and Jamie	DVLC	6:00-7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	Superintendent Parent Leader Meeting - Megan AM and Laura PM	Zoom	Group 1: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Group 2: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	Community Education Advisory Council – Melissa and Megan	Zoom	6:00-7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	196 Legislative Advisory Council – Mark and Sabrina	District Office	6:00-7:30 pm

Other Business

- Vote for a new co-chair next meeting
- Volunteer shirts will be \$8 to purchase for all members

Adjournment

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

Future Meeting Dates

2nd Tuesday, every month March 10, 2026, April 14, 2026, and May 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Brianna Riofski