

Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes

March, 2026

Minutes

Members present: Miranda Birchard, Laura Bjork, Adriana de la Cadena, **Jamie Duffey**, Melissa Dunlay, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Sasha Hiatt-Blenkush, **Dave Kerber**, Brianna Riofski, and Adrienne Rysavy

ISD 196 Staff present: Zachary Gonsioroski

Call to Order

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

Approval of February 10, 2026 minutes

Chairperson called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2026 meeting and full council approved.

2025-2026

- Vote in new Co-Chair
 - Adrienne Rysavy won unanimously
- Retirements
 - Meredith, Jessica, Jamie TBD
- Vote in new members, members voted unanimously
 - Hannah Sheridan
 - Mark Breckenridge

ECFS Program Overview - Zachary Gonsioroski

- ECFE Update
 - ECFE Lottery Last week. Really good results compared to spring last year, 60 children & 50 families added. 331 children & 248 families. Only 2 families were on the waitlist. 7 of 39 full. 7 of 39 less than half full.
 - The book committee will start collecting after spring break. We have old flyers unless we want new flyers. Bookstore May 11 & May 12th.
- Connections preschool update
 - Preschool update: made changes to programming, Pinewood & Oak ridge. 4s 417 applications so far. Of the seats that can go into the open seats 350 goal 420 to 450. 84 families on the waitlist. Full day and am are exactly split with programming. Afternoons remain unpopular. Hoping those on the waitlist take an open spot.

Foundation Liaison Update - Meredith

- Meeting Feb 18th - budget right now is \$29,932 *pre fundraiser
- Discussed angel fund (potential discretionary pool to ECFS program, not confirmed on distribution if approves)
- Possible "Angel Fund" \$300-\$500 per year: Snow pants, boots, etc..
- The treasurer is now the new admin for the program and will leave the foundation. Katie is filling in as treasurer at the foundation.

- Foundation grant cycles. Teachers can submit. Foundation meeting tomorrow to review grants and approve. Budget typically \$3000. They are considering raising based on demand.

Committee Updates:

- Family School Book Drive - Meredith
 - May 5th, 5PM
 - Bookstore: May 11 & 12th
 - o Jamie has bags from Westview food drive and will distribute them.
- Hospitality - Melissa
 - Trail mix bar at DVLC. Baskets for other sites. Pricing out maybe dirty soda bar, bubbly water, cans of sodas out to schools in baskets. Will bring sign up to next meeting.
- Fundraising - - Adrienne
 - Winter Family Fun Event
 - o Although there were less participants at the event than the previous year we still raised a net of \$4,998.78 compared to the 2025 net of \$5,162.92
 - o Some supplies were ordered in bulk for the event which added to larger expenses for supplies this year versus last year but will be able to be used in years to come.
 - Restaurant Fundraisers
 - o Maleku: 15% of sales = \$373.75
 - o Upcoming: Freddy's on April 8th.
 - Need to mention the code. 15% sales 4-8PM
- Food Drive - Meredith
 - Two full car loads. 825 lbs donated to the Open Door. Maybe do an annual food drive. Can also request food gift cards for families in need.

Discussion:

- Winter Family Fun
 - Remember to cover pictures and names in Special Education room and a reminder email.
 - Reminder for teacher.
 - Prepare room clean up in the beginning of the day for the end of the day. Label where tables may have come from.
 - Sign up genius for volunteers - include section of what high school they are from
 - Putting together a thank you for Anna. Jackie Tune, Akiko, Kelsey, Maureen
 - Reminder to bring stuffed animals & scavenger hunts - check with Anna for the supply list
 - Craft room split up
 - Yarn activity was a little difficult; can use the supplies for a different craft
 - Disco ball requested by DJ
 - Add photo booth app that can send to email with a 'photographer'
 - Looking at dates - maybe moving ahead a week and keep Ramadan in mind.
 - Helpful with someone counting along with someone to hand out tickets and answer questions.
 - Jackie, welcome, the information booth was mainly people already in the program.
 - Reach out to zoo school next to see if they would be willing to
 - Have something to show clear boundaries in the rooms
 - HyVee said if we let them know sooner next year they can donate snacks
 - Ran out of forks in the snack room
 - Remember to request to bring a food truck next year or another - maybe for fall due to season.
- Open House Backyard Event - Backyard Bash
 - Drawing families in at the beginning of the year.
 - Joint effort between Hospitality & Outdoor Spaces Committees?
 - o Potential date Thursday Sept 24, 2026. (Sept 25 is a day off)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 11, 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

Adjournment

There being no further business Adrienne Rysavy 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 April 14, 2026, and May 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Brianna Riofski