



DISTRICT 196
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
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Early Childhood Family Services Advisory Council Minutes
February 15th, 2022

Minutes

Members present: Heather Blair (Co-Chair), Katie Bothun, Melissa Dunlay, Meredith Eilertson Azeem, Sam Gaylord, Ashley Holien, Katie Rudolph, Matthew Winter (Co-Chair), and guests Laura Bjork and Felicia

ISD 196 Staff present: Jenna Ruble, Kristi Hanson and Dacia Liszka

Call to Order

Chairperson Matthew Winter called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of January 18th, 2022 minutes

Matthew Winter made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 18th, 2022 meeting, Katie Rudolph seconded and full council approved.

ECFS Program Updates

ECFE – Kristi Hanson shared that the 2022 Spring Catalog was mailed out to the community and online registration is now open. The registration deadline for the lottery is March 8th, 2022. Classes begin on March 28th, 2022.

Connections Preschool – Jenna Ruble shared that the team is in the final planning stages for the 2022-2023 school year. At this time there is a link on the Connections Preschool website for parents/guardians to enter their name and email address so that they can receive an email communication when the application link for the 2022-2023 is on the Connections Preschool website. The 2022-2023 tuition fees and sliding fee scale for tuition assistance was shared with the council.

Committee Updates

Snow Much Fun! – Matthew Winter shared that there are currently 104 families (150 slots total) signed up to pick-up the winter activity kit on February 26th, 2022 at the Dakota Valley Learning Center. A sign-up sheet was shared with the council for the assembly of the kits on February 22nd, 2022 and for pick-up day for families on February 26th, 2022. The event details has been shared in ECFE classes by the teachers, in the ECFE Spring catalog along with a few social media posts.

Family School Book Drive – Katie Bothun shared that we currently have 200 books and are in need of 450 books. There are 45 kids in Family School this school year in which each kid will receive 10 books to take home for summer reading. The book collection will begin in April 2022 and the kids will “shop” for books to bring home the 2nd week in May 2022.

Liaison Updates

Superintendent Parent Leader meeting on February 15th, 2022 was cancelled.

Upcoming Events

February 26, 2022	Snow Much Fun! Event	DVLC	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
March 15, 2022	Superintendent Parent Leader meeting	Zoom	Group 1 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Group 2 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
April 20, 2022	196 Legislative Advisory Regular Council meeting	AVHS	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
April 2022	Family School Book Drive	DVLC	All month long

Other Business

Advisory Council Communication – Matthew Winter opened up discussion to the council regarding how they felt about the primary/current method of communication between the council members, which is email. The council agreed to pilot the WhatsApp to see how that goes and see if it may be a better communication tool for the group.

Advisory Council Recruitment – Matthew Winter shared that the Advisory Council has experienced a decrease in council members due to COVID. Pre-COVID there were 20-25 council members, currently today there are 11 plus 3 District 196 staff for a total of 14. Matthew encouraged the current council members to reach out to people they know and invite them to join! The goal is to build our group, size and diversity for next year.

Teacher Appreciation week May 3rd, 2022 – Jenna Ruble asked the council what ideas they had for teacher appreciation week and shared she is looking to expand this to all 68 teachers and support staff at the 12 sites this year. Ideas that were shared: Snack Pack Kit (gold fish, granola, candies, bottle water etc.), plant, water bottle and Abdallah chocolates. Final decision and details will be made at the next council meeting on March 15th, 2022.

Fall Open House community event – We would like to invite families to come and learn about Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). A meeting will be scheduled in March prior to our next Advisory Council meeting to further discuss the Fall Open House. The council members felt that hosting the Fall Open House on the same day as the first day of school is too much for families. They felt that hosting it prior to the start of school may work better and making it more of an event type of feel with food trucks, etc. would be a good way to attract families.

Adjournment

There being no further business Heather Blair made a motion to adjourn, Katie Bothun seconded and full council approved. The meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

3rd Tuesday, every month - March 15, April 19, May 17

Respectfully submitted, Dacia Liszka