



Linking Families and Communities Board Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

Location: The Pizza Ranch
Manson, IA

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES Early Childhood Iowa Board met on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. at The Pizza Ranch, Manson, IA.

Members present: Paul Beneke, Jim Dick, LuAnn Burgers, Liz Wessels, Tammy Varland, Mark Egli, Phil Condon, Melanie Fierke and Dean Hoag, Sr.

Members absent: Kelly Vonnahme, Brad Assman and Joe Kramer

Community members present: Elizabeth Stanek, Marcie Lentsch, Julie Kuhlmann, Amber Hansen, Heather Johnson, Jeanie Running and Tami Julius

The meeting was called to order by chair Paul Beneke at 12:30 p.m. Quorum was met. The Board made introductions. Members of the community also made introductions.

Motion was made by Mr. Egli, seconded by Mr. Hoag to approve the agenda with a change of the line item regarding Board Terms/Elections to expire in January 2010 to 2011. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Minutes from the last board meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Ms. Burgers seconded by Mr. Dick to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010 Board Meeting. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Amber Hansen with Child Care Resource & Referral (Upper Des Moines Opportunity) reported that she has been working on contacting and meeting with the non-registered child care providers in the three counties that are on the DHS list for non-registered receiving state child care assistance. Ms. Hansen explained that there are many more non-registered providers than are on the list. She stated that she has attempted to contact everyone on the list. Many people were unable to be reached or not doing child care. Of those 109 listed for Webster only 40 were reached that were still doing child care, in Calhoun 9 of 12 have been reached and 8 of 12 in Pocahontas. Ms. Hansen distributed information on child care, passed around the toolkit and the health/safety kits she has put together for those non-registered providers that become registered. Ms. Hansen stated that she has received donations of gift cards and items to make the kits and is still looking for more items, especially fire extinguishers.

Ms. Marcie Lentsch updated the Board on the preschool program and the Positive Solutions for Families classes that she has been facilitating. Currently there are 114 children receiving scholarships. Ms. Lentsch explained that she is now on the second round of classes, which are being held in Fort Dodge (27 parents & 33 children) and Pocahontas (9 parents & 7 kids). Both have been going well. The classes are once a week for 6 weeks, which is a time commitment for families, but that child care and dinner were provided. Ms. Lentsch stated that the sessions that were held in Fort

Dodge and Manson during the first round were successful and will provide the data at a later meeting. Ms. Lentsch stated that she had gone to the Teaching Strategies training on Creative Curriculum Gold and will be providing training for preschool teachers this spring. She will be working with preschools on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and will attend the PBIS train-the-trainer that Linking Families and Communities will be hosting in February.

The board briefly discussed the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program and the proposed changes that Governor Branstad was planning to make.

The board then reviewed Financial Statements for October and November 2010 as prepared by Redenius & Bowzer, LLP. Motion made by Ms. Varland seconded by Mr. Condon to approve the financial statements as presented. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek then presented the by-laws with changes made as suggested at the November 4, 2010 meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Burgers seconded by Mr. Dick to approve the by-laws as presented with an effective date of February 1, 2011. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek provided updated School Ready and Early Childhood Budgets. Ms. Stanek explained that we are not on target for spending due to the start-up of the new CCR&R Expansion project that fund the work of Ms. Hansen, the turnover of the Family Resource Center staff for Play and Learn project, transportation that has just started up for preschool and the professional development classes that will be happening in the spring and early summer. Ms. Stanek felt that expenditures would increase in the second half of the year and did not have concerns about being under the 20% carry-forward amounts for either budget. Motion was made by Ms. Wessels seconded by Mr. Hoag to approve the budgets as presented. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Varland reported on behalf of the Executive Committee and stated that the Executive Committee performed Ms. Stanek's evaluation. Ms. Varland explained that a new evaluation tool was used and the committee felt it was more detailed than the previous tool. The tool is designed to be completed by the entire board and the committee feels that the board should consider using this process starting in FY12. Motion was made by Mr. Condon, seconded by Mr. Dick to accept the Executive Committee's evaluation of Ms. Stanek and change the evaluation process to include the full board in FY2012. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Varland stated that the Executive Committee reviewed Levels of Excellence and worked on Board Policy at their last meeting. Ms. Varland highlighted policies from the documents that the board received. Motion was made by Mr. Hoag, seconded by Ms. Burgers to adopt the Board Policies as presented.

Mr. Paul Beneke reviewed the board terms that are expiring this month:

- Mr. Joe Kramer (Education – Pocahontas),
- Mr. Brad Assman (Business – Calhoun),
- Ms. LuAnn Burgers (Human Service – Calhoun)
- Mr. Phil Condon (Bd of Supervisor – Webster).

Ms. Stanek reminded the group of the requirements outlined in Tool LL that requires boards to have representatives from education, health, human services, business, faith

and parent/grandparent and that do not receive funding directly or indirectly from the board. It was also noted that the board is to seek gender balance by January 1, 2012. Ms. Stanek noted that Pocahontas Area Community School was not receiving any funding from the board for scholarships or transportation and that Mr. Assman stated that he is not able to continue to commit to the board long term and will stay on the board until a replacement is found. Motion was made by Mr. Hoag, seconded by Mr. Dick to re-elect Mr. Kramer, Ms. Burgers and Mr. Condon to another three year term. Motion passed with no dissenting votes. Motion was made by Mr. Dick, second by Mr. Hoag, to re-elect Mr. Assman to serve until a replacement is found. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke introduced Ms. Melanie Fierke. Ms. Fierke is interested in serving as the faith representative for Webster. Motion made by Ms. Varland, seconded by Ms. Wessels to elect Ms. Fierke to the board as the Faith Representative to complete the term of Mr. Madai Taylor that expires January 2012. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke called for nominations for President. Motion was made by Ms. Varland, seconded by Ms. Burgers to re-elect Mr. Beneke as President. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke called for nominations for Vice President. Motion was made by Ms. Wessels, seconded by Mr. Condon to re-elect Mr. Hoag as Vice President. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke called for nominations for the Executive Committee. Current Executive Committee members are: Mr. Beneke, Mr. Dick, Ms. Varland and Ms. Vonnahme. Motion was made by Mr. Burgers, seconded by Mr. Condon to retain the current committee members. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke called for nominations for the Finance Committee. Current Finance Committee members are: Mr. Beneke, Mr. Assman, Mr. Kramer and Mr. Hoag. Motion was made by Mr. Dick, second by Ms. Varland to re-elect Mr. Beneke, Mr. Kramer, and Mr. Hoag and elect Ms. Wessels to replace Mr. Assman. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Motion was made by Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Hoag, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2011 (12:30 p.m.) at Pizza Ranch in Manson

Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek