



## BOARD MINUTES –1/2/2026

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, January 2, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

### **Members present:**

Clarence Siepker  
Bob Thode

Justin Daggett  
Pastor Nick Thackery

### **Members absent:**

Lindsay Laufersweiler  
Tammy Varland

Dave George

### **Community members present:**

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 12:00 p.m. Quorum was met.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Ms. Stanek reported that she does not have the agreement from the City of Fort Dodge to present at this time.

**MOTION:** Mr. Daggett moved to approve the agenda as presented.

**SECOND:** Mr. Thode

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Board Minutes**

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the board minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Forum/Board Questions**

Mr. Siepker asked if the public or the board had any questions. No comments were made. No questions were posed.

### **Child Care Project**

Mr. Siepker asked Ms. Stanek to provide an update on the child care project. Ms. Stanek reviewed the funding available for the project. Ms. Stanek highlighted incoming pledges and the pledge schedule. She then reviewed the project costs as updated with the revised budget from Downing Construction.

Ms. Stanek reviewed the budget by section, highlighting savings, overages and recommendations. Overall the total budget for the project is unchanged, with most of the project scopes finalized, bid and final numbers listed. She noted that electrical and plumbing budgets are being negotiated still, but should result in savings. The currently, there is a 7.6% project contingency available. Downing likes to have 5%, so things are pretty solid at this time. Ms. Stanek reported the following risk areas to the budget:

- Roof – sheeting may need to be replaced in sections.
- Parking Lot/Concrete - soil may be poor and need additional stabilization;
- Masonry – Wall may need some repair and/or may need additional damp-proofing or repair.



Downing staff is not concerned about these items, but they are the parts of the project that have the most risk for overages.

The board held a discussion on the project and approving/moving the project forward. The board discussed the recommendations for increasing electrical service from 200-amp to 400-amp to ensure adequate electrical service for the future, adjustments in the kitchen and the replacement of exterior entry door package and west window, so that all are new, more energy efficient and have better look. Board members posed a few questions and possible alternates, asking Ms. Stanek to get answers back from Downing.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode made the motion to proceed with the project, approving the overall budget with the recommended changes: increasing to a 400-amp service, adjusting kitchen, and replacing all doors and windows, unless significant overages result from the roof replacement or replacement of the CMU wall. Ms. Stanek will make the determination of the replacement of the window and door package after the roof and CMU wall expenses are known.

**SECOND:** Mr. Daggett

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Ms. Stanek reported that the project agreement with the City of Fort Dodge is still in effect, but that an amendment to the agreement, is in progress but not finalized. This change will assist with the grant reimbursement process. Ms. Stanek requested changes to the draft amendment which have not been accepted to date. The board held a brief discussion. Board members will hold a special meeting when the amendment is provided to review and approve.

Ms. Stanek requested the board discuss who should be a signatory on contracts for the project. The board held a brief discussion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode made the motion that the board have Ms. Stanek serve as the signatory on all contracts and agreements for the approved project.

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** Ms. Stanek will provide updates on the project and make board aware of issues/delays/concerns. Board members reported willingness to meet to talk through issues as needed.

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Daggett

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 12:46

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

**Next Meeting: March 12, 2026**