



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Linking Families and Communities conference room at 822 Central Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Dodge.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Nick Thackery (Zoom)

Bob Thode

Members absent:

None

Community Members Present

Colby Edel
Scott Schurman

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 1:00 p.m. Quorum was met.

SEED Child Care Project & Downing Construction

Colby Edel and Scott Schurman of Downing Construction met with the committee to review the Success Defined Agreement (SDA), project budget, building space plan, and project schedule/timeline for SEEDS project. Schurman and Edel explained that certain elements of the project—specifically the CMU (Concrete Masonry Unit) wall on the southwest corner and the roof—could be bid out earlier, as they are not dependent on the final design. Ideally, this work would occur before winter.

The total project budget is currently estimated at \$1.4 million, exceeding the initial \$1.2 million budget provided by Ms. Stanek. The group discussed the contracting requirements related to the grant funds. Mr. Schurman noted that if the committee recommends moving forward to the board and wishes to proceed with the CMU wall and roof prior to design completion, he would revise the SDA agreement accordingly to address those portions. Mr. Edel and Mr. Schurman then left the meeting.

Ms. Stanek presented a project budget that included costs for outfitting the center, such as kitchen equipment, classroom materials, and other necessary items, and outlined the funds Linking Families and Communities currently has raised for the project, pledged contributions, and available cash reserves. Additional fundraising will be required to address the remaining funding gap. The committee discussed potential



fundraising strategies, opportunities for securing additional funds, and staffing plans for the center.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to recommend that the board approve a contract with Downing Construction for the design on the SEEDs project as well as the additional scope of services to address the roof and CMU wall.

SECOND: Mr. Thackery

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to recommend that the board approve the repair of the CMU wall and roof replacement at the SEEDS building.

SECOND: Mr. Thackery

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Siepker called for a motion to adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Thackery made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

NEXT MEETING:

Oct/Nov 2025