

NEICAC Policy Council

September 17, 2024

The September Policy Council meeting was held via Zoom. Participants included: Kerry (New Hampton), Catherine (Oelwein), Jordan (Guttenberg), Alex (Mnona), Kaitlyn (Oelwein A), Ashley (West Union), Sara (WU), Peyton (EHS), and Martin Ahrndt (staff).

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll was taken. New members in attendance were welcomed to the board.

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Cathering G and seconded by Kaitlyn E . The motion carried.

Director's Report

Staff Changes: Jerrilyn Campbell has been hired as the Decorah Co-Teacher and a candidate has accepted the Waverly Teacher position. Offers have been accepted for the New Hampton Co-Teacher and one of two 30-hour Oelwein positions.

Budget: Early Head Start and Head Start budget summaries were reviewed. Both programs are close to target for this time of the year.

Enrollment: Martin reviewed the Early Head Start and Head Start enrollment reports. Both programs are fully enrolled. We continue to fluctuate day to day as we have families drop or transition out and new families are enrolled. Martin also reviewed the August Attendance Report. All classrooms were above the 85% attendance levels for the contact days in August.

Wrap Around: We are working to verify eligible families. We can receive funding for up to 145 families and we hope to reach that number. The work verification needed from employers can slow down the process. We are currently at 82.

2024-2025 School Year: -The new school year is underway. At the beginning of the school year, staff spend time helping the children transition back to school and settling into the daily routine. We spend a lot of time focusing on social/emotional and friendship skills.

Program Instruction: The Program Instruction regarding the Final Rule on Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming was reviewed. The rule updates the Head Start Performance Standards to increase support and stability for the Head Start workforce. It also improves the quality of services.

The August CACFP claim for reimbursement and meal and snack reports were reviewed along with the credit card statements. All was found to be in order.

New Business

Election of Officers: The election of officers will take place at the October meeting. Martin encouraged new and returning board members to consider a position.

Board Member Recognition: Departing Board members were recognized for their service on the ECP Board. We appreciate their service and dedication to the Head Start and Early Head Start programs!

Center Reports

EHS	Postville Market, Osborne Nature Center
Cresco	Cresco is working on routines, classroom rules and how to be a good friend. The children have really enjoyed cooking in the classroom.
Decorah	We are adjusting to our new room (& building) @ the new Sunflower center in Decorah. We are loving it! We are getting the chance to investigate the Discovery Center this week as the water table is now complete - The kids are doing well with routine and schedule. We will continue the Beginning of the Year study for another couple of weeks and looking into the Tree study so we can watch the trees in Iowa change through the beautiful season.
Guttenberg	No report
Monona	Finishing up beginning of the year study next week. Working on friendship skills and behavior management! Getting ready for the tree study. Students are also exploring with paint and painting.
New Hampton	We are doing the beginning of the year study and getting to know our new peers. We have enjoyed finding different places in our school and we love to play on the red playground!
Oelwein A	We are working on the Beginning of the Year study, also a major focus is working on potty training and becoming more independent. They are enjoying lots of fingerplays to get through our day.
Oelwein B	We are doing the Beginning of the year study. We are learning expectations, routines, friendship skills, and feelings. We are celebrating homecoming this week with silly dress up days and having a marching band. We will be visiting the football field and watching the cheerleaders and marching band.
Oelwein CD	We are doing things with the gingerbread man this week. We will be going on a walk to see if we can find him, making our own gingerbread men and finding out what happens if he would have jumped into the water. We will also be exploring the football field with it being Oelwein's homecoming week and watching the mobile pep rally on Friday.
Postville A	We are working on our first six weeks unit and will be moving on to the trees unit afterwards. We have been focusing on classroom routines and expectations. We have done classroom books on our family and on ourselves. We have some cooking lessons planned; the kids are going to make homemade tortillas and raspberry smoothies.
Postville CD	We are working on school readiness and meeting future classmates with the other preschool class that is part of the day care here in Postville
Waukon A	We having been getting used to our routines, schedules and working on the kids learning everyone's names. Last week we made fruit dip in small groups and this week we are enjoying homecoming dress up days! We will soon be starting the ball study.
Waverly	No report
West Union	We walked as a class to the flower shop (Old Mill) and bought white carnations and then the kids put food coloring in the water to see what would happen to the flower.

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. New member training will take place at 5:00 pm via Zoom, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. Catherine 1st, Alex 2nd. Motion Carried.

Submitted by Martin Ahrndt

Approved 10/15/24