

NEICAC Policy Council

March 18, 2025

This meeting was held via Zoom. Those participating: Peyton (EHS), Kamra (EHS), Dirsra (EHS), Stephanie (Cresco), Malissa (Cresco), Juana (New Hampton), Kerry (New Hampton), Luanne (Oelwein), Brittany (Waverly), Sara (West Union), Sharon Burke, Martin Ahrndt, Angie Leiran, and Denise Tapscott (staff). There was 1 visitor present.

The business meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Roll was taken. A motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. 18, 2025 meeting was made by Brittany and seconded by Stephanie. The motion carried.

Director's Report

Staffing: Brenda Wallace has accepted the position of Education and Professional Development Specialist. Rachel Noecker, Waukon Co-Teacher, and Gracie Hensley, Oelwein A Co-Teacher, have resigned. Martin Ahrndt, Family & Community-ERSEA Specialist, has resigned to accept the position of Outreach Director with NEICAC. Interviews have begun for the ERSEA position.

Enrollment: Martin reviewed the enrollment reports and the February attendance report. Both Early Head Start and Head Start are fully enrolled with weekly fluctuations. Five classrooms were below the 85% attendance level for the month of February: New Hampton, Oelwein B, Postville A & CD, and Waverly. Most absences were due to illness, family vacations, and/or transportation issues.

Applications: Martin reported on application numbers for the 2025-2026 school year. To date, we have received over 200 applications. We are in the process of verifying income and determining eligibility. Please help spread the word that enrollment efforts are underway! Parents can complete an online application on the NEICAC.org website.

Budget: The February budget reports were reviewed. This is the first month of our fiscal year.

LAPBK Assessment: Angie shared data on the Early Head Start LAPBK assessment results for the winter assessment period. All areas of development were above 85% of meeting/exceeding expectations except for language development. The program's focus will remain on maintaining and increasing language and cognitive development.

ECl grants: It is time to renew our Building Directions for Families Early Childhood Iowa grant to support our Oelwein B classroom. A motion to approve the BDF grant submission was made by Malissa and seconded by Peyton. The motion carried. We did receive notice that applications will be accepted for the Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw grant that supports our New Hampton classroom.

The February CACFP report and credit card bills were reviewed. All were found to be in order.

New Business

IHSA Award: Sandy Johnson, Head Start Coach, was awarded the Support Person of the Year award by the Iowa Head Start Association. Sandy will be recognized at the Iowa Head Start Association Spring Conference and Annual Meeting on April 2nd & 3rd in Des Moines.

Center Reports

EHS	Playgroups: Cresco Pool & Pizza Party, Monona Community Center-writing development. Home Visits: small and large motor skills, language development and color recognition.
EHS Transition Room	Children are working on color matching, pedaling bikes, and music and movement songs.
Cresco	Holding conferences and discussing child goals, enjoying outside play, pet study, and popcorn celebration.
Decorah	Completed the road and sign study and beginning the recycling study. Enjoying more outdoor play.
Guttenberg	We are studying simple machines. Children were excited to bring in their own simple machines that they had at home to show the class.
Monona	We just finished our Pet Study. This week we are doing St. Patrick's Day activities and next week we are starting the ball study.
New Hampton	We just finished up our bread study and had the owner of our local bakery come in and talk to the classroom. On Thursday we had students from one of the 4 th grade classrooms come in and buddy up with a student to kick off their "Book It" challenge. Our classroom students had so much fun having their own "big kid" to read with them.
Oelwein A	We are starting the Insect study. We had a visit from the Naughty Little Leprechaun who left treasure and a big mess. We went on a scavenger hunt and the Leprechaun left juice that turned the teacher's feet green.
Oelwein B	Children are tracing letters and writing words, and counting numbers to 20.
Oelwein CD	No report
Postville A	No report
Postville CD	We are just finishing our pet study. We made a pet store with a fish tank that families created fish for. We are going to be making rainbow popcorn for the food of the month and sent home a spring scavenger hunt. Families created leprechauns as an at-home activity.
Waukon	We are doing the clothing study. Children are using a kid's sewing machine to sew paper together and we will be tie dying fabric.
Waverly	No report – on Spring Break
West Union	We are doing the building study. They love our construction site in dramatic play. Families have created buildings at home to bring in.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Peyton

Transcribed by Denise Tapscott

Approved 4/15/25