

NEICAC Policy Council

1/20/26

This meeting was held via Zoom. Those participating: Kamra (EHS), Dirsra (EHS), Malissa (Cresco), Amy (Decorah), Alex (Monona), Payton (Monona), Courtney (Monona), Kerry (New Hampton), Sandy (Oelwein), Courtney (Waukon), Sharon Burke, Rachelle Smith, Angie Leiran, Brenda Wallace, and Denise Tapscott (staff). There was one visitor present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was taken.

A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Amy and seconded by Kami. The motion carried. There was no meeting conducted in December. Members received an informational packet for the month.

Director's Report

Staff Changes: We are advertising for the 40-hour Co-Teacher float for Cresco, Decorah, and New Hampton. Please share with anyone you know that might be interested.

Enrollment: Head Start and Early Head Start are close to full capacity but still have slots available. There was discussion on the waitlist and recruitment strategies. The Average Daily Attendance report was reviewed. Cresco, Decorah, New Hampton, and Waukon were below the 85% attendance level. Reported reasons included family vacations, illness, weather, and/or transportation issues.

Budget: The enclosed December budget reports were reviewed. We will close the fiscal year January 31, 2026. We submitted a budget amendment to spend some remaining funds to replace EHS vans and are awaiting approval from Regional Office. There was discussion on additional activities to increase parent in-kind. Suggestions included classroom volunteering and utilizing ReadyRosie.

LAP B-K Assessment: The enclosed Fall 2025 LAP B-K assessment report from Early Head Start was reviewed by Angie Leiran, EHS Education Specialist. The scores are used to identify our program focus for the year which will be maintaining and increasing language development for all children in the program.

Gold Assessment: Brenda Wallace, the HS Educational and Professional Development Specialist, reviewed the Gold Assessment results for the fall checkpoint period. There are two more checkpoint periods throughout the year.

In-services: The Head Start in-service was held on January 19th. Topics included FA 1 Review process, Mental Health, Fidelity, CLASS, and Math outcomes along with guest speaker, Tom Krause, contributing author to 28 Chicken Soup for the Soul series.

Registration: Registration for the 2026-2027 school year begins in February/March. The classrooms will be hosting registration dates throughout the months of February and March. Please help us spread the word in your community.

Criteria for Selection: Rachelle reviewed the Criteria for Selection revision to remove points for WRAP eligibility due to the loss of this funding. A motion to approve the revised Criteria for Selection points page was made by Kerry and seconded by Malissa. The motion carried.

The submitted December CACFP report was reviewed. Credit card bills were reviewed. All appeared to be in order.

Classroom Reports

EHS	Playgroups: Waukon-Winter STEM activities, Monona-Large motor activities for indoors Parents reported working on sorting, matching, and fine motor activities. As well as shape and color recognition.
EHS Transition Room	Winter activities including snow play and identifying body parts using a snowman.
Cresco	No report
Decorah	Winter activities and ball study.
Monona	We are in the 3rd week of a pet study. We have had a parent bring in a rabbit and more parents will be bringing in their pets to share. We made fake snow for our pets to play in. Students are creating a pet book. In the dramatic play area we have a pet store and next will be a vet clinic.
New Hampton	We are studying balls in our classroom. Today we learned about ramps and how they could affect the speed of a ball rolling down one as well as what types of balls will sink and float. We will be making homemade butter this week as a science experiment and as part of our food of the month. We will finish off the month with our 100-day celebration where our students will be coming to school dressed as if they are 100 years old and their families will be joining us in the afternoon for some fun activities.
Oelwein A	We are finishing up the Roads study. Students have enjoyed looking at the map and comparing where their house is to their friends in town. They have also enjoyed building bridges with magna-tiles to see how much they can hold before they collapse.
Oelwein B	Congratulations to Ashley for completing her 4-year degree!
Postville A	Working on the clothing study. Students made paper dolls of themselves which they will be adding to the block area.
Postville CD	No report
Waukon	We are finishing up the Box Study. The children loved virtually touring a Frito-Lay bin and seeing all the different chip boxes. This week, they are using cardboard pieces, tape, and glue to construct their own boxes. Next week we will begin a pet study.
Waverly	Working on the clothing study. Children are enjoying the dress-up clothes.

The next meeting will be held on February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by Denise Tapscott

Approved 2/17/26