

NEICAC Policy Council
February 17, 2026

This meeting was held via Zoom. Those participating: Kamra (EHS), Dirsra (EHS), Ciara (Cresco), Malissa (Cresco), Amy (Decorah), Alex (Monona), Payton (Monona), Courtney (Monona), Sandy (Oelwein), Litci (Postville), Karen (Postville), Brea (Waukon), Courtney (Waukon), Sharon Burke, Rachelle Smith, and Denise Tapscott (staff). There was one visitor present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll was taken.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Sandy and seconded by Amy. The motion carried.

Director's Report

Staffing: An offer was extended for the Cresco, Decorah, and New Hampton Float position. We are working on reference checks.

Enrollment: Rachelle reviewed the submitted Early Head Start and Head Start enrollment reports. Both Early Head Start and Head Start are fully enrolled. We continue to try to identify eligible children as we gear up to take applications for fall enrollment.

Attendance: Rachelle reviewed the submitted January Attendance Report. Programs that fell below the 85% attendance level were Cresco, Oelwein A, and Oelwein B. All reported illness and a transportation issue in Cresco.

Budget: Submitted EHS and HS budgets for January were reviewed. January 31st was the end of our grant year. We expect both programs to be fully expended. We are excited to announce that we will meet our in-kind requirement for fiscal year 2025. Thank you to all the parents who have supported us either in the classroom or through activities at home.

Registration: Registration for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. The classrooms are hosting registration dates throughout the months of February and March. The various dates and time for each location were emailed to all PC members. Please spread the word to your friends, family, and community members to aid in our recruitment efforts. Rachelle reported that we currently have 57 applications for the 26-27 school year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences/Home Visits: Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held February through mid-March depending on the school district and the classroom.

Parent Survey: Classrooms are currently distributing parent survey forms to all enrolled families. Parent input is very important and helps guide our practices moving forward.

By-Laws: Policy Council By-laws must be reviewed and approved annually. Denise reviewed the By-laws included in the packet. There are no proposed changes at this time. A motion to approve the By-laws as written was made by Karen and seconded by Brea. The motion carried.

The enclosed January CACFP report was reviewed. There were no credit card statements to review at this time.

New Business

Policy Council Representatives: The Decorah Parent Rep, Oelwein A Parent Rep, and Postville A Parent Rep have voluntarily removed themselves from the board. These classrooms will have the opportunity to elect alternative representatives.

Classroom Reports

EHS	Playgroups: Oelwein Library Sensory Playtime, Sunflower Discovery Center
Home Visits	Colors, going up/down steps, following directions
Cresco	Favorite activities include building with magnetiles and working on counting.
Decorah	Bread Study. We are going to make corn bread and Miss Leah is going to bring in her bread machine to make bread to eat with homemade butter.
Monona	We completed the pet study. Each child was able to adopt a pet (stuffed animal) to take home. Last week we did valentines and friendship. I had each kiddo paint 1 hand a color and then they rubbed hands with a friend to see what new color the 2 colors would make. This week we started the tubes and tunnels study and are learning about healthy foods and dental habits. Everyone got a new toothbrush.
New Hampton	We are studying roads and transportation in New Hampton. Last week we had the street superintendent visit our classroom and bring pictures of the equipment that he uses to maintain the roads in town. He also offered to give the classroom a tour of the shed and equipment when it gets warmer out. We have a train conductor and a pilot lined up to visit the classroom before the month is out and maybe even a barge captain! We took a walk around the school with the warmer weather and looked at all the traffic signs, road markings, and other road related items that are in our neighborhood as well as practicing our road safety rules.
Oelwein A	Valentines Day and kindness activities
Oelwein B	We are doing the sand study and learning about all the different habitats for animals. We transitioned from arctic animals to desert, ocean and savannah. We are also learning a lot about kindness and working on doing things together and building new friendships.
Postville A	No report
Postville CD	Doing lots of movement and exercise activities. They kids enjoyed Valentine's Day and making and decorating cards and boxes. We are studying snow, winter, and igloos.
Waukon A	Pet study. The teachers created a slide show of everyone's pets. Working on the letters of their names and enjoyed their Valentine's party.
Waverly	No report

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoo m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Denise Tapscott

Approved 3/17/26