



ECFS/Early Childhood Family Services

ECFE Early Childhood Family Education
Family School/School Readiness: Bridge to School

Minutes from ECFS Advisory Council Meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Andy Boettcher at 6:25 p.m.

Members present: Melissa Behles, Andrew Boettcher, Sanna Ellingson, Kelley Esch, Stacia Essler, Tami Frank, Kate Glode, Kim Gorjestani, Ellen Kane, Heather Lorentz, Laura Menk, Nichole Morrison, Kathie Jean Neville, Jackie Pettit, Kathy Plitzuweit, Kristy Saum, Jill Smook, Michelle Thieling, Corinna Troth, Aimee Whitmore and Amy Wick.

Staff present: Karen Kellar

All council members participated in an interactive "get-to-know" you activity.

The minutes from the September 1 meeting were approved.

Karen Kellar provided ECFS Manager's Report:

- Fall classes began last week. There have been many changes in registration but classes are going well. There are two classes that were low in enrollment and will start several weeks late.
- Open house was a great success. 100 children and 75 parents attended including many families new to ECFE. It was a diverse group of families.
- A mailing was sent to families with infants under one year old using a new half page card stock format. It was very effective and has resulted in an increase in registration for infant classes.
- ECFE teachers and staff are taking a proactive approach to addressing the possible spread of H1N1 and other viruses by encouraging families to wash hands when they come into class and communicating ECFE procedures for disinfecting toys.
- ECFE classes are following the new District 196 snack policy. No birthday treats or prizes but the class will still sing happy birthday to birthday boys and girls.
- School Readiness is currently filling open spots in Bridge to School.
- The free parent conference sponsored by the District will be Saturday, November 7 at Eastview High School. The keynote speaker will be Dr. William Dougherty. Childcare will be available for those who preregister.
- Karen answered questions from new members.

Karen Kellar discussed the goals for the Advisory Council for the 2009/2010 year:

- Karen discussed a handout regarding changing demographics for the K-12 population. It is important to know where we are in the district with respect to demographics because it impacts planning for ECFS.
- ECFS Finances; ECFS is at a point where hard decisions may need to be made because there was not an increase in state funding during the last session. Karen will advocate with the

district for ECFS to be included in an upcoming levy. Only a minimal increase in taxes would be needed to support ECFS through the levy. ECFS will need Advisory Council member advocacy to develop support among school board members for inclusion of ECFS in the levy.

- The Foundation has not been active lately, so it will be important to figure out how to rejuvenate it.
- There are two primary fundraising activities this year: the sock hop in February and the development of the ECFE CD.
- Some policies to consider this year include age guidelines for classes and how to handle nonpayment of fees.

Karen Kellar described the various Advisory Council committees and members had an opportunity to sign up. Everyone was asked to sign up for at least two committees.

Karen Kellar discussed the draft of winter session classes:

- Karen passed out draft class planning sheet and explained how decisions are made as to what classes are taught in any given session.
- Members should contact Karen with class topic suggestions as soon as possible.
- Karen will forward the title and description for the new class on bullying. Members will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

Karen will forward the Parent Leader Meeting Minutes to the Advisory Council later this week.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 6:15 p.m.

Andy adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kelley Esch