

Policy Council Meeting
9-27-22

Submitted by: Kaiya West and Kerry Mehling

Members Present: Laura Morehead, Kathrine Macintosh, Kristina Stokes, Shayna Hudson, Veronica Torres, and Kaiya West

Board Members Present: Ray Richards and Diane Coon

Staff Present: Kerry Mehling, Krystie Hohnstein, and Lauren Starke

Policy Council Meeting called to order by Laura Morehead at 6:30 pm. New member introductions were made. Members reviewed the minutes from the August meeting. **Kathrine moved to approve the August minutes. Veronica seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Director's Report:

All members received a copy of the Director's report. Krystie Hohnstein discussed the report. Bridgeport Head Start has 2 remaining openings and within the school district partnerships there are 7 remaining openings. EHS openings are all in Home Base, and the EHS Reduction/Home Base application is submitted. The program is now waiting feedback on the request and is not enrolling more families at this time. Attendance has been excellent. Screenings for both EHS and HS are in progress. Coaching has started with 10 staff members, and they have already achieved five goals. Behavior health observations are underway, and classroom observations are beginning.

Finance Report w/ Updates on COVID Funding:

All members received a copy of the Finance Report. Lauren Starke, Fiscal Officer, presented the reports. The error found in the July report at the last meeting was corrected and a revised report was provided to members. Expenses, TTA, administrative percentages, and credit card charges for both EHS and HS were discussed. COVID 2 funds are nearly spent and the final dollars will be used towards indirect costs. The COVID 3 report reflects increased spending for the playground resurfacing projects that are underway. **Kristina moved to approve the finance reports. Shayna seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Board Report:

- The proposed 2022-2023 ESU 13 budget of \$20,411,633 was approved
- The property tax resolution of \$1,921,274.70 for 2022-2023 was approved
- The ESU 13 Educational Foundation was officially formed according to 501(c)(3)

Old Business:

Update on EHS Reduction Application:

EHS Home Base reduction application was officially submitted for approval. Q&A between the two parties will continue for a few more months. If the request is approved mid-year, leadership will develop a "phase out" process for families currently enrolled in Home Base

Update on Carry-Over Funding Application:

The regional office suggested submitting a budget revision application for \$55,000 to be used for purchasing a vehicle instead of the original \$40,000 previously approved. The carryover application process is being guided by the regional office representatives.

Update on Playground Surfacing Projects:

All playground resurfacing is complete. Next, the CDC infant/toddler playground will be expanded, and the ELC infant/toddler playground will have new equipment and a bike path added. Bridgeport will receive rubber mulch for the fall zones.

New Business:

October Policy Council Training/Meeting (Oct. 25th) & Center Elections:

Centers and partnerships are holding parent Policy Council member elections this month. The annual Policy Council Training is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 25th from 6-8pm for newly elected representatives and returning members. Some revisions to the process are underway for the upcoming 2022-2023 meetings.

Continuation Grant Discussion:

There are no major plans for service changes to the continuation grant application that is due by December 31, 2022, other than the reduction of 12 Home Base slots. The Reduction Application was submitted this month. This change would reduce the overall EHS slots to 72 slots and eliminate the Home Base program, but increase center base availability by 1 classroom in the Bridgeport community.

Employment Openings were shared with members. Openings included:

VALTS Teacher

School Psychologist – Behavioral Health

Head Start Partnerships Liaison

Head Start Cook

Ecological In-Home Family Treatment Consultant - Chadron

Title 1C Education Mentor: North Platte (Lincoln, Logan & Keith Counties)

Early Childhood MTSS Facilitator – Region 5 (ESU's 13,15,16)

Head Start Floater

Job descriptions including credential requirements can be found at www.esu13.org (Employment Opportunities)

New Hires:

Sunny Edens – Floater/Assistant Teacher @ ELC

Clara Brown – Assistant Teacher @ ELC

Eluisa Duque – Assistant Teacher at ELC (was a temporary hire previously, now permanent staff member)

Kathrine moved to approve the new staff hires. Kristina seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Center Reports were given by:

- Home Base
- ELC

Celebration of Members!

Veronica Torres was recognized for five years of service. Thank you, Veronica!

Thank you to all members who have been attending and supporting the program over the last year!

A special thank you to Ray Richards for the delicious meal!

Thank you Kerry and Krystie for the tumbler glasses!

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm