

Better Tomorrows Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
Minutes of Meeting: April 5, 2017
Kirkwood Vinton Center, 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ron Buch, Larry Vest, Becky Heeren, Richard Arp, Dean Close, Kecia Appleby, Jenny Hulme, Pastor Brian Oliver, Kathy Koehn and Melissa Smith.

Members Absent: Frank Albertsen

Others Present: Lori Johnson – ECI Co-Director and Heidi Schminke – ECI Co-Director.

1. **Call to Order/Establish Quorum:** Vice-Chair Larry Vest called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and introductions were made. Quorum achieved with 8 of 11 members present.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Pastor Brian Oliver made a motion, seconded by Melissa Smith **to approve the February 1, 2017 board meeting minutes as presented.** Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Koehn arrived at 12:04 p.m.

3. **Financial Report:** Lori Johnson reviewed the financials noting we should be at 33% of funds spent and are currently 31%. A detailed expenditure document was also distributed for the group to review. Discussion was held. Becky Heeren made a motion, seconded by Richard Arp **to approve the financials as presented.** Motion passed unanimously.

Lori also shared an e-mail she sent to Representative Dean Fisher regarding ECI Appropriations language from SSB3128. She sought clarification on the language portion of the bill which provided for local control on what the status was as the language had not been put into the education appropriations bill SF2323 in the previous session as the ECI areas were led to believe. Three options advocating how to ensure that the language is drafted this year were presented to encourage this moving forward to allow for more flexibility with our funding (eliminating the different carve outs) and having it go back to local control and meeting each area's needs.

Ron Buch arrived at 12:15 p.m.

Lori noted that there had been a situation with the post office box fee payment in which the post office in Vinton charged a late fee of \$22. The bill was received 1/11, signed by Larry 1/18 and mailed 1/30. There was a fee increase that would go into effect 1/22 and the bill was due 1/31. The late fee was charged because the check was received after the increase of \$4 went into effect and the check amount wasn't sufficient. Heidi paid the late fee and the \$4 additional charge but it is county policy not to pay late fees so only the \$4 was reimbursed. Becky Heeren made a motion, seconded by Dean Close **to approve reimbursing Heidi for the late payment fee.** Motion passed unanimously.

Lori explained that a contract amendment for FY '17 had been received from the state to allow for the reduction in funds. Originally the board was awarded \$327,572 School Ready Funding for FY '17 but with a 3.75% budget cut the new amount is now \$315,296. Additional cuts are expected for FY '18. Melissa Smith made a motion, seconded by Jenny Hulme **to approve the Board Chair to sign the FY '17 contract amendment.**

4. **Co-Director Reports:** Heidi Schminke noted that the state board would meet on Friday to vote on the proposed new funding formula for Early Childhood. Option 7 was determined to be the most equitable for the most areas. She noted that the board could also vote to leave the formula as is. The board will also be determining how redesignation will look now that Levels of Excellence is no longer required. A copy of the Tama County Resource Directory was distributed to those present as well as

the community survey that will be circulated throughout both counties to get input on what the needs are for our area. Based on the responses received so far Bullying is the issue that is most concerning to those completing the survey. Lori Johnson mentioned that the local Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP) group was promoting awareness of Child Abuse Prevention month by having local businesses and organization have their picture taken and posted to Tama County SKIP Facebook page. The Board will also participate by having their photo taken after the meeting. The group will also be hosting a daddy/daughter dance at Meskwaki Settlement School on April 8th and has been working with a homeless high school senior to host a graduation party. Lori also distributed the most current Nest point card, upcoming class topics and SKIP brochure.

5. **State Director Meeting Report:** No report.
6. **Horizons Report:** No report.
7. **MICA Report:** No report.
8. **Tama County Nest Report:** No report.
9. **Tama County Public Health and Home Care Report:** No report.
10. **Kirkwood Report:** No report.
11. **QECE Report:** No report.
12. **Staff Evaluations/Self-Evaluations:** Heidi noted that the board members would be sent an e-mail with a staff evaluation form to complete. Completed evaluations will be sent to Laura Kopsa who will share them with Larry Vest and Ron Buch who will meet with both Lori and Heidi prior to the next meeting to review the results. These will be due by April 30th.
13. **Board Evaluations:** Heidi also shared that the board would need to evaluate themselves as part of best practice. These same evaluations will be sent to programs and the results will be compared to ensure that both programs and the board agree with how the board functions and if there are any areas that need improvement. These will be due back to Heidi by April 30th.
14. **Other Business:** No other business.
15. **Public Comments:** None noted.
16. **Board Professional Development:** None.
17. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 12:00 p.m. on June 7, 2017 at the Tama County Extension office.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Schminke
Co-Director