

Policy Council Meeting
6-30-26

Submitted by: Brandy Klinesmith & Teena Branson

Members Present: Brandy Klinesmith, Jessica Brenizer, Stephanie Gonzales, Manuel Hernandez

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Joan DeWitt, Teena Branson, Shannon Yeoman, Susie Dominguez

Board Members Present: Tom Millette

Policy Council Meeting called to order by President Jessica Brenizer, at 6:09pm. There were no new member introductions needed. Members reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. **Brandy Klinesmith moved to approve the April minutes. Stephanie Gonzales seconded the motion. Due to lacking numbers for a quorum, some votes were received digitally via google form. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Director's Report:

All members received a copy of the Director's report. Teena Branson discussed the report. The biggest change in the numbers are due to the partnership schools being out of school for summer. Majority of the PTC and Home visits are complete. Referrals have continued to rise. There was a virtual father engagement training that took 6 weeks. The recent and upcoming recruitment events were explained.

Finance Report:

All members received a copy of the Finance Report. Lauren Starke, Fiscal Officer, is on maternity leave so Teena Branson gave an overview of the reports for May and June since there was no Policy Council meeting in May and answered questions. **Brandy Klinesmith moved to approve the finance report. Manuel Hernandez seconded the motion. Due to lacking numbers for a quorum, some votes were received digitally via google form. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Board Report:

Teena Branson presented the information reported on the Board of Education minutes. In May and June the Board went over the budget, financial reports, certified staff resignations and hires, and updates on the Meridian construction project, 2026-2027 Core Services funding, the Strategic Plan, accreditation renewal, and state and federal legislative issues. The Board also received notification that the recent Head Start investigation had concluded with all concerns determined to be unfounded and the case closed by all governing agencies. Board members recognized the VALTS program's continued success, celebrating more than 800 graduates. During the June meeting, the Board completed first and final readings of new Artificial Intelligence policies and revisions to policies related to organizational meetings, notice of meetings, purchasing, and records management, approved the 2026-2027 student program handbooks, and canceled the July Board meeting unless additional business becomes necessary.

Old Business:

New Business:

Health Written Plan & Review and/or Revision: Shannon Yeoman Health and Nutrition Supervisor presented information on this component area. This presentation included the 2026 Head Start health policies, for supporting child development and school readiness by partnering closely with families. The purpose of the community advisory committee, the efforts to connect families with regular healthcare and insurance to ensure children receive vision, hearing, dental, and physical screenings within their first few months. Daily routines emphasize healthy habits, including tooth brushing for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Safety is heavily

prioritized through mandatory staff CPR and first aid training, regular emergency drills, and clear incident reporting procedures are set to keep parents informed. Guidelines are in place to ensure medications are stored securely and administered only with a physician's instructions, while also providing a formal process for parents who choose to decline specific health services.

Child Outcomes & School Readiness Goals Discussion: Shannon Yeoman presented these topics since she was the education manager for our standalone locations for the past year. She explained that the GOLD reports track the developmental milestones of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at ESU 13 to ensure children are on the right path for their age. It measures growth in key areas like social skills, physical movement, language, cognition, math, and reading. Overall, the data shows that the vast majority of children are meeting or exceeding growth expectations by the spring time of the school year. An area for continued improvement is literacy and there are multiple training events planned with intentional instruction to ensure kids are fully prepared for kindergarten. These outcomes guide classroom decisions, aid in planning staff trainings, and target extra support where it is needed most.

EHS/HS Continuation Grant, Enrollment & Recruitment Update: Teena Branson, Enrollment Manager, provided the information that last year's grant has been closed out and reports submitted as required. The licensing amendment is still in progress. Once the fire inspection is completed this location will officially increase occupancy at CDC for our combined location. We have been given the go ahead to operate as we are until that takes place and there should be no reason for it not to be granted once the inspection is done as the building has already been licensed for that many people, just under two different licenses (ESU and CAPWN).

Community Assessment Findings: Will be discussed at a later date.

Employment Openings - Agency-wide employment openings are found on the ESU13 website (www.esu13.org) under *Employment Openings*. Current opening listings are for a family advocate at our Bridgeport location and Assistant Teacher position at our Bridgeport and Scottsbluff locations. These are listed on the ESU 13 website. Prospective Employees can also apply directly on this site. This was shown to members.

New Hires:

Janine Davis - Assistant Teacher at CDC, Summer/Temp is a UNL Nursing Student - From Pine Bluffs

Veronica Torres - Assistant Teacher at CDC, Summer/Temp is a para for SBBC and 7 years experience in caregiving.

Manuel Hernandez moved to approve the New Staff Hires. Jessica Brenizer seconded the motion. Due to lacking numbers for a quorum, some votes were received digitally via google form. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Center Reports: Morrill had a center report,

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28th. Dinner will be served at 5:45pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.