

POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The Head Start Policy Council Meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by Margit Nelson with a quorum present and maintained throughout the meeting.

Members present: Cindy Allen, Margit Nelson, Elizabeth Burnett

Virtually: Kristen Smith, Calan Halford

Staff present: Debbie Lovelace, Shelley Upton, Lori Byars, Lisa Brown, and Amy Scott

Welcome and Introductions

Margit welcomed everyone and introduced Elizabeth in person.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 3-11-26 meeting were reviewed. Cindy Allen moved to approve the minutes. Elizabeth Burnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Community Updates

Polk County Health Dept.- no new cases of measles have been reported in the County. Elizabeth will participate in the Resource Fair on Saturday and will bring Pack and Plays and car seats to give away.

Reports/Information

Preschool Monthly Report - updates on attendance, enrollment numbers, and activities at schools were given by Amy and Lisa. Shelley spoke about the new Finch Literacy Screener, School Readiness Committee Meeting, and family conferences. Lori reported that the Head Start Grant has been submitted and accepted.

Financial Report - Debbie reported on the remaining balance of money for the school year.

Credit Card Report - There were no purchases last month.

New Business

Margit thanked Polk County Schools Nutrition Dept. and Jennifer Peeler for their continued food service, even when Polk Schools are on break and Columbus Children's Center is not. She appreciates the dedication.

2025-2026 Meeting Calendar

The final meeting for the school year will be on May 13, 2026.

Old Business

The School Readiness Plan and Report was reviewed and there were no additional questions.

Calan Halford moved to approve the report as written. Kristen Smith seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Cindy Allen moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:27pm and the motion carried.