

Polk County Schools
Head Start Policy Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Stearns Education Center & Virtual

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: Margit Nelson, Donna Wood

Attending virtually: Doreen Lacona (in place of Dena Pfister), Ana Najera Garcia, Calan Halford

Welcome and introductions

Cindy Allen from Polk County BOE was present for the first time this year.

Code of Conduct for new members

Code of Conduct was distributed to all new members present. Kathy Harding explained it and all new present members signed.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on September 18, 2024 were reviewed. Calan Halford moved to approve them. Ana Najera Garcia seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Reports and Information

The September and October Preschool Monthly Reports were shared and highlights noted by Kathy Harding, as well as, Amy Scott addressing attendance details.

A slideshow of photos of children, staff, and families at events and in classrooms was shown and narrated by Amy Scott and Renee Souther.

The Financial Report and the Credit Report

The September and October reports were reviewed and explained by Debbie Lovelace. The new playground grant money has been set aside.

New Business

2024 Annual Report

Kathy Harding went over the annual report. The budget increases annually and this helps offset the salaries of the “floater” staff at the larger preschool sites. She made mention of the fact that in the past it was sometimes difficult to find the 10% of children with disabilities and in 2024 our program had 29%. The graph portion shows the children’s growth across all areas of the curriculum and this is our second year with Creative Curriculum, which aligns with the assessment tool used.

The Playground grant has been approved and the RFP will be posted soon. Playgrounds will be updated and replaced at Polk Central Elementary, Saluda Elementary, and Sunny View Elementary Schools.

Old Business

Agencies report

Margit Nelson reported on the WNC Source early childhood center building update. The Certificate of Occupancy was received in October and no waiting for the final inspections. The center is fully staffed and planning to open January 6, 2025. Polk County Schools nutrition program will be supplying food for the program.

Donna Wood brought news from The Hope Chest. They have given out countless toothbrushes lately. The hurricane event has kept them very busy with families in need.

Ana Najera reported that she had recently met with the Speech and Language Therapist about getting her child an evaluation and she was extremely pleased with the process. She also mentioned that her child has shown a lot of growth since the start of school in many areas including her speech.

Next meeting date and time

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 12 noon

Motion to adjourn was made by Donna Wood at 12:42 pm and carried unanimously.