



First Start Partnerships for Children & Families

Policy Council

April 27, 2026

9:00 am

Policy Council Members Present: Madelyn Davidson, Brittany Neff, Bailey Price, Ashley Simpson

FSP Staff Present: Carolyn Clouser, Jessica Hatch, Kim Holtry, Diane Hummel, Jessica Kreigline, Melisa Ostrowski, Amy Pinkerton

Board Members Present: Lura Hanks

- I. **Welcome:** Bailey welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.
- II. **Old Business:**
 1. March Minutes: Brittany Neff made a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Ashley Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- III. **New Business:**
 - Staffing Updates: Diane Hummel shared the names and placements of the two new hires that started during the month of April. Diane also shared that one candidate recently completed a second interview and is being recommended to be hired as a lead teacher. Bailey made a motion to approve the hiring of the candidate Diane mentioned. Madelyn Davidson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Head Start/Early Head Start Grant: Jessica Hatch shared that the Head Start/Early Head Start grants are completed in 5-year cycles, and the organization is currently in year 4 of the current cycle. She noted that an application is still required annually, but this year only a budget narrative must be submitted.
 - Executive Summary: Jessica Kreigline gave an overview of the Head Start/Early Head Start 5-year grant. Jessica noted the following proposed changes:
 - Addition of a third classroom at Tuscarora.
 - Elimination of Building Assistant Teachers (BATs); shift to contracted substitute model.
 - Removal of vacant Family Center Director role.
 - Elimination of CFO and finance assistant positions; increase in contracted accounting services.
 - 7% increase proposed for administrative leadership salaries.
 - Estimated 15% increase in health insurance costs (self-funded model continues).

Brittany made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget, and Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- WASD Update: Melisa Ostrowski shared that First Start's Board of Directors wrote a letter to the WASD school board requesting that they wait for one-year to take over the grant in order to provide a better transition for children and families. Melisa stated that any updates will be communicated as soon as they are known.
- Family Training: Melisa shared a plan for Pyramid Model training for families that includes seven 2-hour sessions. Bailey recommended sending a survey out to families to find out the best days/times to hold the trainings, and Brittany encouraged providing incentives to those who participate. Madelyn emphasized that as long as interactions are polite, inclusive and knowledgeable, then families will want to participate. Melisa said that she will provide the recommendations to Erica Nemzek who is planning the trainings.
- Facility Plan: Jessica Kreigline shared the updated facilities plan noting the progress since the original plan in 2019, and the current goal of purchasing the LWELC building.

IV. Directors Report:

- **See attached document for directors' report**
- Carolyn Clouser shared that Keondra Clemente (Kiki) from CELC is a top 20 finalist for "America's Favorite Teacher" award.

V. Parent Committee Report Out:

- EHS-No report
- CELC-Planning end-of-year event to celebrate family nationalities.
- WASHS-Held art show recently that was well-attended.
- LWELC-No report

VI. Member Discussion/Questions/Suggestions:

1. Fishing Derby: Bailey shared that the Fishing Derby is scheduled for the beginning of June and said that she would send out a donation letter to PC members. She asked that members take the letter to businesses to request donations for the event.

VII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am