

First Start Partnerships for Children and Families
Policy Council Zoom Meeting
Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021
6:30 – 7:30 pm

Members in Attendance: Holly Dockery, Alicia Day, Ora McPherson

- I. **Welcome** Holly Dockery called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. February minutes: The minutes for February were reviewed and approved with a motion by Ora, seconded by Holly. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. February Financials and Credit Card Expenditures: Will be sent via email for approval.
- III. **New Business**
 - A. Family Handbook: Diane shared that a new family handbook was developed and she briefly noted the section about family engagement. She explained that the handbook will be sent to Policy Council members after the meeting, and asked that any feedback be sent via email by the end of the week.
 - B. Draft of Parent Survey: Nicole shared a beginning draft of a parent interest survey and the Policy Council members gave input into what additional questions should be asked. Holly said that she will draft a letter to families that can be the introduction to the survey. Nicole will send out the draft to Policy Council for input before sending it to all families.
- IV. **Director's Report**: Nicole reported that EHS center-based reopened the week before, and noted that there are some openings. She shared that the Home Visitors are training on the "I Love You Rituals" by Dr. Becky Bailey and the center-based teachers were completing training on the NAEYC Code of Conduct and teacher to teacher interactions.

Nicole shared that FSP applied for a grant for operating expenses for the Family Center and encouraged Policy Council to invite friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can receive free books. She also noted that there is a referral incentive and monthly Facebook lives that are engaging for children and parents.

Diane shared that Head Start is busy preparing to reopen classrooms for children this week. She noted that there was a celebration for the second cohort of Apprentices today because they finished their first class, and that two Apprentices from the first cohort are close to attaining their CDAs. Diane also noted that Head Start Lead Teachers were given a digital trial of a curriculum called "Handwriting without Tears" so they can check it out before purchasing. She also explained that the Head Start grant is due May 1st, so Policy Council will get the chance to review and approve it next month.
- V. **Member Discussion/Questions/Suggestions**: Ora asked when in-person Policy Council meetings will resume. After some discussion, the consensus was that the meetings will remain virtual for at least the remainder of this school-year.
- VI. **Adjourn**: Holly Dockery adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

