

Minutes
Washington County Empowerment
January 22, 2009

Board Members Present: Janis Gruber (vice-chair, faith), Adam Mangold (Board of Supervisors), Jolisa Weidner (citizen), Jennifer Callahan (citizen), Delores Carpenter (human services), Anna Rich (citizen), Evan Parrott (education), Edie Nebel (treasurer –health), Jarad Klein (citizen)

Board Members Absent: Megan Jones-Schiebel (chair-citizen), Melissa Westphal (citizen)

Advisory members present: Tasha Beghtol, Renella Crawford, Rose Peterson

Meeting called to order @ 4:35pm with a quorum established. Janis Gruber is acting chairperson in Megan Jones-Schiebel's absence.

Motion by Jolisa Weidner, second by Jennifer Callahan, to approve minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

Membership

Motion by Evan Parrott, second by Delores Carpenter to recognize Adam Mangold as the elected official (Board of Supervisor) replacing Jim Miksch. Motion carried.

Motion by Adam Mangold, second by Jennifer Callahan to seat Jarad Klein as new citizen representative. Motion carried.

Motion by Anna Rich, second by Evan Parrott to seat Melissa Westphal as new citizen representative. Motion carried.

Members reviewed the resignation from Megan Jones-Schiebel. Motion by Adam Mangold, second by Jennifer Callahan to accept Megan Jones-Schiebel resignation. Motion carried.

Evan Parrott nominated Janis Gruber for Board Chairperson. Nomination accepted. Motion by Evan Parrott, second by Anna Rich to recognize Janis Gruber as new Chairperson. Motion carried.

Adam Mangold nominated Jennifer Callahan for Board Vice-Chairperson. Nomination accepted. Motion by Adam Mangold, second by Anna Rich to seat Jennifer Callahan as new Vice Chairperson. Motion carried.

Program Committee

Evan Parrott shared comments and highlights from the program committee meeting held January 13, 2009 (see handout). The committee has approved 7 applications for the Professional Development funding and expects 5-6 more applications. Recommendation from the committee to set a total funding limit of \$3,300 for the professional development program. Motion by Evan Parrott, second by Anna Rich to approve \$3,300 cap for professional development funding for early childhood educators. Motion carried.

Evan noted that Tasha Beghtol shared information regarding Head Start (HS) funding and a request from Rose Peterson for support in Washington County. Rose Peterson provided a handout for review explaining the need for funding and total request. Jennifer Callahan asked what will happen to current HS slots if no money is available through WCE? Rose responded that HS does not plan to cut Washington slots regardless of the support that may be awarded to them for Jan-May 2009 from WCE. Jared Klein asked where the funds would come from if WCE approved any support for HS? Tasha noted that there are some unallocated funds in the Preschool Support carveout that could be used for the purpose of

supporting slots at HS. Jarad expressed concern that the 1.5% reduction that Empowerment recently absorbed may not be the end of budget cuts and the current unallocated funds may be taken with future cuts. Edie Nebel shared concerns and conversation from previous funding years. Edie explained to new members that the Board had chosen in the past to not fund wrap around slots because they felt it would open a door to childcare funding. Anna Rich offered the suggestion that the Board continue to stay informed about the situation at HS and be able to rethink the budget as necessary.

Financial Report

Current financial report from Geode RC&D was handed out and reviewed. Edie Nebel provided a general overview of the report and explained that guidance from the state technical assistance team is for the Board to formally approve financials at every meeting. Edie explained that members will receive the Profit Loss vs Budget page in their packets and Tasha will have the full report for review if questions arise. Motion by Edie Nebel, second by Evan Parrott to approve financials as submitted. Motion carried.

The revised budget was handed out and reviewed to show the 1.5% reduction. Tasha noted that the board is able to take the reduction from any part of the budget. The reduction has been taken from Preschool Support Unallocated funds, as noted on the revised budget. Motion by Edie Nebel, second by Jarad Klein to approve revised budget. Motion carried.

Annual Report Review

Edie Nebel reviewed the 2008 annual report document provided by the state(see handout). No changes are required and no technical assistance was identified. Edie noted that areas identified for improvement were around the baseline data reporting.

Coordinator report:

Tasha Beghtol handed out and reviewed the coordinators report. Discussion was held regarding the Playground grant to the Riverboat Foundation. Tasha noted that the Board would need to take action if they wanted her to resubmit an application in April.

Motion to adjourn by Evan Parrott, second by Adam Mangold. Meeting adjourned at 5:45.

Next meeting scheduled for Feb 26th in Kalona