

WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPOWERMENT  
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**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**PRESCHOOL SUPPORT & PROGRAM**

**Minutes**

**June 12, 2008 4:00pm**  
**Federation Bank, 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room**  
**110 N Iowa Ave**  
**Washington, IA 52353**

**Members Present:** Tasha Beghtol, Mark Schneider, Megan Jones-Schiebel, Delores Carpenter, Paula Buckwalter, Karen Arbuckle, Anna Rich, Jolisa Weidner

**1. Scholarship update**

**a. Request for special circumstances**

Tasha handed out and reviewed request for additional funds to be approved for application #61. Approved by consensus to award 100% tuition paid for July & August 2008.

**2. Transportation – FY09 planning**

The preschool support committee previously recommended negotiation with the Minibus for reduced rates with 2-way payment approval. Tasha noted conversations with the Minibus had taken place and that the next Minibus Board meeting was not until August 29<sup>th</sup>, preventing contracts to be in place prior to the start of the new fiscal year. Members discussed concerns about billing procedures from the Minibus and next steps to ensure that Head Start children had access to transportation for July and August. Mark Schneider noted that Tasha could contact school districts to discuss supporting transportation needs through the districts directly. Empowerment could support preschool transportation through districts, but gap funding would need to be identified by each district. It was also noted that Empowerment may contract directly with Head Start or other private preschools to support transportation. Tasha will continue conversations and update members at the next meeting.

**3. 4yr old voluntary preschool bill – Washington District update**

The governor's list of districts that received 4-yr-old preschool funding was handed out. Tasha noted that Washington District was successful and that all 3 districts in Washington Co are now eligible for DE 4yr old funding. New funding will leave approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 unallocated *Empowerment Preschool Support* funds for FY09.

#### **4. FY09 budget – Preschool carveout**

Tasha noted that legislation was amended to now allow for multiple uses of the Preschool Support carveout. Members agreed by consensus to use estimated additional preschool support funds for professional development. Preschools may have access to support for continued education required by the Preschool Bill and/or other gap funding needs resulting from implementation of new preschool programming requirements.