



Cedar/Jones County Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 15th, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Kandice Behnke, Dennis Boedeker, Paul Frederiksen, Larry Hanon, Jamie Nelson, Lesley Puffer, Jean Sullivan, and Steve Williams.

Members Absent: Kelly Banowetz, Teri Jo Griebat, and Deb Schultz.

Others Present: Sherri Hunt, ECI Director; Stephanie Snyder and Lynette Otten, LSI; and Julie Orris, ISU Extension.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. with quorum achieved with 8 out of 11 members present.

Paul Frederiksen introduced Dennis Boedeker to everyone.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to approve the meeting minutes from the June 20th, 2013 Cedar/Jones ECI Board meeting as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- III. **ECI Financials** –
 - a. **Approval of FY13 Year End Financials** – Sherri reviewed FY13 Year End Financials noting that all Early Childhood funds have been spent and approximately 11% or \$33,585 in School Ready funds will be carried into FY14. Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to accept and approve the FY13 ECI Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of FY14 Amended Budget** – Sherri reviewed an amended FY14 budget. Amendments do not reflect the programs or \$\$ that are contracted, but rather the specific \$\$ amounts that are in each individual category and the actual total of carryover from FY13. Currently there is almost \$\$7,000 that is unallocated. Larry Hanon made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to approve and accept the FY14 Cedar/Jones ECI budget as amended.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IV. **ECI FY13 Annual Report – Review and Approval** – After a thorough review and discussion, Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Dennis Boedeker **to approve the Cedar/Jones ECI FY13 Annual Report with a few minor changes and additions and submit to the State ECI office.** All approved. Motion carried.
- V. **Preschool Scholarships** –
 - a. **Exception to Program Standards** -- Sherri presented the Board with a list of Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools in Cedar and Jones counties wishing to participate in the Preschool Scholarship Programs. Per Board policies, programs must demonstrate and verify meeting quality standards or request a onetime annual exception

to policy while working to meet standards. Exceptions are being requested for Campus for Kids Preschool in Durant, Little Home Learning Center in Lowden, North Cedar Preschools in Lowden and Mechanicsville, West Branch Community Day Care Center in West Branch, and Olin CSD Preschool in Olin. These programs will either be verified this school year for Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program standards or have submitted or will be submitting for a Quality Rating of 3, 4, or 5. Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to grant a one year exception to Preschool Scholarship Program standards to the programs as listed.** All approved. Motion carried.

b. Discussion on Child Priority/Amending Budgets – Lynette Otten, Jones County Preschool Scholarship Program Manager addressed the Board regarding utilization of funds for scholarships in Jones County. Currently there are 8 three year olds and 3 four years olds on the waiting wait. The Board discussed the priority of getting children into preschool and determined to utilize funds from the Program Expansion funds to take children off the waiting list. They also discussed delaying the Mini Grant process until they can determine the full need of scholarships in both Cedar and Jones. Larry Hanon made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to move \$4000 in the Jones County Preschool Scholarship Program from Quality Program Expansion funds and to re-evaluate further scholarship needs and discuss the status of the Mini Grant process at the September Board meeting .** All approved. Motion carried.

c. Student Exception to Co-Payment – Lynette Otten also addressed the Board regarding a request from a preschool program on behalf of a parent/guardian wishing for an exception to the currently required co-payment. The Board felt that the co-payment on the parent/guardian's part was a reasonable and that our reimbursement rate covers approximately 90% of the preschool cost thus leaving approximately 10% for the parent/guardian. Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Dennis Boedeker **to deny the waiver of the parent/guardian copayment for the cost of preschool.** All approved. Motion carried.

VI. Dolly Parton Imagination Library – Consideration for Funding -- Per Board request, Lynette Otten brought information to the Board regarding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Costs would be approximately \$2.08 per book or \$25.00 annually per child. Approximately 100-120 children could be served and the financial need would be approximately \$4000 annually to cover the cost of the program. After much discussion, the Board decided not to move forward with funding the Imagination Library due to funding limitations and **to convene a committee to conduct an Early Childhood Book Drive in the area.** Paul Frederiksen, Steve Williams, and Jamie Nelson agreed to be part of this committee.

VII. Child Care Provider Mini Grants – Establishment of a Committee/Discussion of Priorities – Because of uncertainty with Preschool Scholarship costs, Lesley Puffer made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to temporary delay moving forward with the Child Care Provider Mini Grant process and to re-evaluate when scholarship needs were met.** All approved. Motion carried.

VIII. Public Comment – No public comment noted.

IX. Adjourn -- Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Lesley Puffer **to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m.** All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 19th, 2013, 8:30 a.m. Olin Consolidated School, Olin