

Wright County Community Action, Inc.
Head Start Policy Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Members Present:

Tiffany Vassar, Buffalo 2 Representative
Jesse Masloski, Howard Lake Alternate
Evette Holler, Otsego Representative
Marina Eggink, Community Representative

Members Absent:

Meghan Polzin, Annandale Representative, Secretary
Nicole Cantin, Buffalo 1 Representative
Emily Lommen, Delano Representative
JorDyn Bresinger, EHS Representative
Lindsey Gibbons, EHS Representative
Maria Mendoza, Monti 206 Representative
Alexis Carrillo-Sigle, Monti 207/208 Representative
Reanna Sigle, Monti 209/210 Representative
Samantha Peters, Montrose Representative, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Greenhagen, WCCA Board Member (non-voting)

Staff Present:

Dara Smida, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

I. Determine Quorum/Call to Order/Introductions

The March 17, 2026, Policy Council meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Dara Smida. A quorum was not present, so members were unable to vote on items, however, members did provide recommendations for approvals.

II. Consideration/Approval of March 17, 2026 Agenda

Policy Council members reviewed the agenda as presented.

Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Evette Holler, to recommend approval of the March 17, 2026 agenda.

III. Consideration/Approval of the February 17, 2026 Policy Council Minutes

Policy Council members reviewed the February 17, 2026 Policy Council minutes as e-mailed.

Motion by Jesse Masloski, second by Marina Eggink, to recommend approval of the February 17, 2026 Policy Council meeting minutes as e-mailed.

IV. Consideration/Approval of the January 2026 Financial Reports

Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the January 2026 Financial Reports, including expenditures, credit card statements, and in-kind summary.

Motion by Tiffany Vassar, second by Marina Eggink, to recommend approval of the January 2026 financial reports.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

a. Recommendation of low-income representative to the WCCA Board of Directors

The Head Start Director presented an application for the WCCA Board of Directors, representing the low-income sector of the community.

Motion by Evette Holler, second by Marina Eggink, to recommend Alleson Stensing as a low-income representative to the WCCA Board of Directors. An electronic vote will go out to Policy Council members to move this item forward for the April 14 Board meeting.

b. Transportation Waiver Request

Staff and Policy Council reviewed the transportation waiver request for the 2026-27 program year. This document requests a waiver for both child restraints and bus monitors on buses at the Monticello Head Start site.

Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Tiffany Vassar, to recommend approval of the Transportation Waiver Request for the 2026-27 program year.

VII. WCCA Board Report

No Board report.

VIII. Reports from Community Representatives, MHSA Representative, and Parents

- Evette reported that Otsego will have a kindergarten teacher at their family meeting.
- Jesse reported that Dassel-Cokato schools had their kindergarten round up today. Their next parent meeting will be at the Cokato library.
- Marina reported that public health will partner with Head Start to complete lead testing on Head Start students in April. Allina is closing their OB home visiting program. Public Health will help bridge that gap and provide visits to families.

IX. Program Director's Report

a. Updates from the Director

- HSP and EHS remain fully enrolled and fully staffed.
- Congress approved a small cost of living adjustment (COLA) of approximately .6%.
- The National Head Start Association (NHSA) conference is in Minneapolis in May. Dara is presenting on the Minnesota Head Start Association data project.

b. Program Activity Report for February 2026.

The Head Start Director shared the program activity report for February 2026.

X. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

a. The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6:00PM in-person and via Zoom.

b. The March 17, 2026 Policy Council meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

Respectfully Submitted by: Dara Smida, Head Start Director