



Boost4Families Board Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2009 – 7:00 PM

Webster Elementary, Red Oak, IA

Members present: John Baker (Villisca CSD), Sonja Cambridge (DHS), Judy Kay, Nancy Gibson (Cass Co. Pub. Health), Ron Kohn (Mills Co. Elected Official), Jacquie Morrival (Mills Co. childcare), Kara Sherman (Red Oak CSD), Linda Hartkopf (Cass Co. Elected Official), Carleen Bruning (Montgomery Co. Elected Official), Matt Perkins (Nishna Valley CSD), Duane McFadden (Cass Co. Elected Official), Barb Mass, Sherry Ford, Margo Magill (Atlantic CSD).

Members present via conference call: Glen Benskin, Sheri Bowen (Mills Co. Pub. Health), JoAnn Thomas (Montgomery Co. Citizen Representative), Laurine Price,

Others present were: Michelle Wodtke Franks (Boost4Families Coordinator).

Members not present: Ray Buell, Val Jensen, Dennis McClain, Glenwood CSD Representative, Anita CSD Representative, Griswold CSD Representative, Tamra Ruff (Montgomery Co. parent), Dawn Witt (AEA), Becky Bell (Malvern CSD), Mary Perkins (Montgomery Co. Pub. Health), Kristy Pellett (Atlantic CSD), Candace Johnson (Montgomery Co. childcare)

Dinner was served prior to meeting.

Information for meeting was posted/sent out prior to meeting.

John Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

John asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Duane McFadden made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Sonja Cambridge seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The board was asked to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Nancy Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Kohn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Duane McFadden to the Advisory Council to fill the vacancy left by Kimberlee Spillers. Margo Magill motioned to approve McFadden to fill the position on the Advisory Council. Judy Kay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

We are awaiting word from Griswold and Glenwood regarding representation from their school boards. Superintendent Steve Pelzer from Cumberland Massena will represent his district in 2010. Two parent representative positions on the Board are currently open. Amber Dyer and Kimberlee Spillers are no longer available to participate. These positions are for Mills and Cass counties. Spillers was in line to assume the Chair position in 2010. Since she is no longer participating on the Board, we will need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Tamra Ruff and John Baker are eligible to serve as chair. John is willing to serve another term but would prefer to hand it off to Tamra. Michelle will discuss this

with Tamra to see if she is interested. Michelle made applications available to Board members to share with prospective members. Advertisements for open positions will be placed in Mills and Cass county newspapers in December. John thanked everyone for their service this year, especially in light of the increase in meetings as a result of staff changes.

Discussion was held about the importance of achieving gender balance by 2012. Sonja Cambridge encouraged everyone to consider prospective members with a business background to perhaps balance out the human services representation on the Board. Nancy Gibson commented that she has been in contact with potential members from Cass County that might serve the dual role as parent and business owner. Cambridge also pointed out that Ray Buell will be retiring next year and we can expect a new person from Juvenile Justice to be appointed to his position on the Board.

Michelle Franks presented the revised Early Childhood Empowerment budget to the Board for approval. The revised amounts reflect a 10% decrease in funding for the Child Care Resource and Referral specialist provided through West Central Community Action and the Child care nurse consultant provided through HCCMS. Ron Kohn made a motion to accept the revised budget as presented. Matt Perkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Franks presented a spreadsheet showing the current allocation and use of preschool tuition grants for our school districts as well as data on those children participating in both Parents as Teachers programming as well as preschool. It was pointed out that only two school districts in the Cass Mills Montgomery Empowerment zone do not receive Voluntary 4 Year Old funding. Those school districts are Cumberland Massena and Glenwood. Cumberland Massena is currently developing application for this funding, however. John Baker asked the Board to reflect on how we might restructure our funding priorities for next year in light of current and anticipated cuts. Discussion was held about the merits of using a "weighted" system in determining which services or individuals should receive support. Also, the Board discussed the possibility of focusing funding on a few quality programs versus trying to pare down support to all programs. Matt Perkins pointed out that reducing funding to all programs could potentially make them ineffective. He also pointed out that reducing in areas of staff development was detrimental to keeping programs innovative and effective.

The Board discussed the need to hold a meeting in January to formalize a vote for Advisory Council and Board positions. Suggestion was made to send out ballots to members prior to the next scheduled meeting. A phone conference call will be conducted to confirm the vote. Michelle will send out an email to all Board members to extend the opportunity to be removed from consideration.

Next meeting is set for January 21, 2009 at 6:30 PM, in the Boost4Families office. This meeting will be set up for conference call participation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Michelle Wodtke Franks
Boost4Families Coordinator