



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, October 16th, 2025; 9:00 a.m.

Hybrid – Olin CSD Meeting Room & Zoom

Members Present: Mike Bixler, Dionne Daedlow, Darrick Hall, Stephanie Musser, Josh Sundstrom, and Steve Williams.

Members Absent: Janet Shotwell and Heather Weers.

Others Present: Christy Brown and Jess Burger, GWAEA; Diana Strahan & Jaye Geater, HACAP; Melissa Tucker, LSI; Whitney Randolph, Cedar County Public Health; Chelsey Steckley, YPN; and Sherri Hunt, Cedar/Jones ECI Director.

- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson Stephen Williams **called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.** Quorum was achieved with 5 out of 8 members present.
- II. Introductions** – All Board members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Public Comments** – None noted.
- IV. Meeting Minutes** – Dionne Daedlow made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to approve the August 21st, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.** All approved. Motion carried.
- V. FY26 Financials** – Mike Bixler made a motion, seconded by Dionne Daedlow **to accept the FY26 Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.

Josh Sundstrom joined the meeting at 9:18 a.m. Quorum maintained with 6 out of 8 Board members present.

- VI. CART Program Presentation** – Christy Brown with GWAEA presented on her role as Infant and Child Mental Health Consultant for Cedar and Jones counties. Christy talked about the transition to mental health consultation and how the direction of the work has changed and focuses on caregiver relationships with children. She also talked about how the program is continuing to evolve and develop to meet both the needs of child care providers and children and families.
- VII. FY26 1st Quarter Program Reports** – Sherri reviewed 1st Quarter Program Reports and financials with Board Members for the CART Program, the Early Head Start Wage Enhancement Program, both LSI and YPN Parents As Teachers programming, and the Preschool Scholarship Program. No concerns were noted. Sherri also talked about the development of Daisy 2.0 and more data and reports to come regarding home visitation. Mike Bixler made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to accept the 1st Quarter FY26 Program Reports as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VIII. Preschool Scholarship Program – Request for exception to policy** – Sherri discussed a previous request from a family for consideration of a scholarship for an out of county student who attends preschool in Jones County. Because of available funds in the Preschool Scholarship Program budget, Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to**

make an exception to policy and support this out of county student with a qualifying Preschool Scholarship application for FY26. All approved. Motion carried.

- IX. Dolly Parton Imagination Libraries – Consideration of Fund Raising Campaign –** Sherri reviewed Imagination Library financials for both Cedar and Jones Counties. In particular, the Jones County Dolly Parton Imagination fund is alarmingly low. After discussion, Darrick Hall made a motion, seconded by Dionne Daedlow **to move forward with a public campaign to secure funds for Imagination Libraries in both counties, including a social media campaign, newspaper editorials, as well as targeted business solicitations.** All approved. Motion carried.
- X. AECIABA Annual Meeting – Request for overnight travel –** Sherri is requesting approval for overnight travel to attend the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates social and annual meeting in Des Moines on November 12th and 13th, 2025. Mike Bixler made a motion, seconded by Dionne Daedlow **to approve the one overnight travel in November 2025 as requested.** All approved. Motion carried.
- XI. Merger into Districts Consideration –** Sherri provided the Board with an update of State ECI Board meetings and conversations regarding the possibility of ECI areas merging into districts. After much discussion, Dionne Daedlow made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to support the engagement of conversations regarding movement of Cedar/Jones ECI into District 7 ECI area.** All approved. Motion carried. It was noted this is intent for discussion only with no specific action or agreement to merge into a ECI District.
- XII. Director Update –** No new information was shared.
- XIII. Adjourn –** Mike Bixler made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.** All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20th, 2025; 9:00 a.m.; Olin CSD/Zoom

Next Exec. Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 12th, 2025; 11:30 a.m.; Dittos, Stanwood