



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 20th, 2025; 9:00 a.m.

Hybrid – Olin CSD Meeting Room & Zoom

Members Present: Mike Bixler, Darrick Hall, Stephanie Musser, Janet Shotwell, Josh Sundstrom, Heather Weers, and Steve Williams.

Members Absent: Dionne Daedlow.

Others Present: Christy Brown, GWAEA; Christi Regan, Danielle Pershing, Diana Strahan & Jaye Geater, HACAP; Melissa Tucker, LSI; Chelsey Steckley, YPN; Saterika Mims, Riverview Center; Jodi Jorgensen, Bridgette Prince, and Mackenzie Meeks, Robert Young Center; and Sherri Hunt, Cedar/Jones ECI Director.

- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson Stephen Williams **called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.** Quorum was achieved with 7 out of 8 members present.
- II. Introductions** – All Board members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Public Comments** – None noted.
- IV. Meeting Minutes** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Mike Bixler **to approve the October 16th, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.** All approved. Motion carried.
- V. FY26 Financials** – Darrick Halll made a motion, seconded by Josh Sundstrom **to accept the FY26 Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VI. Wage Enhancement Presentation** – Christi Regan with HACAP presented on the Wage Enhancement program at the Early Head Start Center in Anamosa. She talked about the services being offered at the center, the importance of investing in early childhood educators, and the braiding of funding that occurs to provide a solid program for children 18 months to 3 years old and their families.
- VII. Dolly Parton Imagination Libraries** – Sherri shared with the Board that a Jones County Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$9,000 was recently received to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Jones County. She also provided fund balances and highlights which included Jones currently in its 11th year of programming and Cedar County will be starting their 11th year of programming in January of 2026. Collectively over 61,520 books have been mailed to kiddos and over \$133,500 has been raised to support the cost of hosting this program. Sherri still plans to send solicitation letters to business and organizations and encouraged Board members to approach any businesses they work with to consider a donation.
- VIII. Movement to Districts** – Sherri shared that District 7 ECI Directors are beginning to meet on a regular basis if a decision is made regarding the requirement to move into ECI Districts. The group is also planning to host a meeting with the potential new Board. No real movement has been made by the State ECI Board regarding the transition to ECI Districts. The topic continues to be a discussion item at their Board meetings.

- IX. Director Update** – Sherri shared information from the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates annual meeting, including the 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Legislative priorities. She also shared with the Board that she will be making financial requests to both the Cedar and Jones Board of Supervisors to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- X. Adjourn** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 a.m.** All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18th , 2025; 9:00 a.m.; Olin CSD/Zoom

Next Exec. Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 9th, 2025; 11:30 a.m.; Dittos, Stanwood