

Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 4, 2026

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Media Center Flex Room

Members Present

Barb Neprud, Tim Larsen, Mike Domin, Kristine Booth, Sarah Katzenburger, Becky Pakarinen, Rick Aulie, and Abby Geotz

Welcome & Introductions

Abby Geotz called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the May Community Education Advisory Council meeting. Introductions were made, including welcoming newer council participants and acknowledging continued community involvement and leadership transitions.

Transition Updates

Rick Aulie shared updates regarding the hiring process for the Community Education Coordinator position. Four candidates were scheduled for second-round interviews later that week. Discussion included continuity planning for Community Education programming and services during the staffing transition.

Abby Geotz confirmed her final day in the office will be May 22, 2026. She outlined plans for a one- to two-week transition process that will include: Transfer of Google Drive files and systems access Development of a reference document for ongoing projects and responsibilities Continued efforts to support a smooth operational handoff The council also discussed the potential contracting of Jennifer Strom to provide Community Education Director licensure oversight and assist with state reporting requirements during onboarding of new staff.

Early Childhood & Registration Updates

Kristine Booth and Abby Geotz reviewed current early childhood registration trends, noting: A relatively balanced number of three- and four-year-old registrations Mixed responses regarding interest in district transportation options The council discussed barriers impacting participation, including long transportation times for outlying families, parent work schedules and childcare logistics, homeschooling trends, and questions regarding whether expanded transportation would significantly increase enrollment. Past outreach efforts, including off-site ECFE programming and the "Magic Ranger" bus initiative, were also discussed. Members reflected on participation challenges and program quality considerations connected to mobile or off-site offerings.

Spring Programming & Events Recap

The council reviewed several recent Community Education events and programs: The April 15 Open House and Kindergarten Signing Day was considered successful, with strong participation and registrations. The spring play had approximately 42 student participants and positive feedback. The same director is expected to return for future productions. Bird Identification classes experienced mixed attendance levels. The May Brushes at the

Bridge class was canceled due to low enrollment. Community Movie Nights continue to be well received, though licensing restrictions tied to district property and outdoor screenings were discussed.

Summer Planning & Community Engagement

Abby Geotz provided updates on summer programming and upcoming events: The Summer Community Education Catalog is scheduled to launch May 15 and will feature updated live-link functionality for ongoing edits and additions. Planning continues for the Community Sale & Vendor Fair. At the time of the meeting, approximately 11 of 35 vendor spaces had been reserved. Food trucks, children's activities, and community partner participation continue to be coordinated. Registration still needs to open for the July production of *Twice Upon a Time*, scheduled for July 20–25. Discussion also focused on lodging needs for visiting play directors during the July production week. Members explored Airbnb and VRBO options after learning that Red Ryder was fully booked and hotel costs were financially unsustainable. Abby agreed to continue discussions with local property owners and hosts. The possibility of Community Education participation in the Fourth of July parade was briefly discussed for future consideration.

Onboarding & Future Planning

The council reviewed onboarding resources being prepared for incoming staff, including: An annual programming calendar Operational dashboards Transition reference materials Members discussed meeting cadence moving forward and recommended holding a mid-June onboarding meeting with the newly hired staff member before major summer programming begins. A tentative June 8 meeting date was discussed, with additional details and invitations to follow.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed to Abby Geotz for her service and contributions to Community Education programming and operations.