



MEETING NOTES

Region 47 Family Council Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date & Time: April 6, 2023, 6:00pm-7:30pm

Council Members present: Candace Antczak, Angie Danielson, Sasha Gomes, Jessica Higgins, Brittany Howard, Shayla Johnston, Maggie LaFever, Carly Rodriguez
Council Members absent: Charis Allen

6:00pm Welcome and Share Your Story (55 minutes)

Notes: Members shared their personal stories about their families. They answered questions such as how many children they have, parenting styles, struggles & accomplishments as a parent. Stories reflected upon how they as parents have engaged with the Early Childhood Education and Care system.

Decisions made: Stories will stay with the group. Everyone is encouraged to seek community with other council members.

6:55pm Parent/Family Engagement Questions (25 minutes)

Notes: Members answered questions related to early childhood education, supporting services and family dynamics. Some points that were made were:

- PFA (Preschool For All) programs have helped one member's family. They have stated having positive experiences.
- Bus transportation is available for child care pickup and school pickup/drop off. One member said it helped their family once they learned transportation was available.
- Therapy options for children are often located in Rockford with a schedule that does not work for a family. Travel can take up to two hours to and from services. There is a need for more services throughout the Region.
- Due to a lack of child care options many families had to change their family dynamics from two working parents to one. Some families expressed feeling grateful for the opportunities to spend more time with their children and support their development.
- Members spoke of the importance of taking care of their mental health. Many families prioritize working with their children to identify emotions and give social/emotional support.



- ClassDojo and Seesaw help families connect with their daycares and schools. Teachers can update on children's progress or send information on events.
- Some family events hosted by schools or park districts sometimes are offered at times that don't work for families.
- There is a need for more qualified educators that work with children with special needs.
- Families have a hard time learning what parent education programs or services are available in the region.

7:20pm Questions, Wrap-Up, and Poll (10 minutes)

Notes: Members participated in a poll to gather attendance data for the upcoming in-person meeting and Regional Scan review.

Follow-up/Next Steps: We will be having an in-person meeting on April 27th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. A reminder will be sent out closer to the date.

Next Meeting:

Date: April 27th, 2023

Time: 4:00pm-7:00pm