

## **Spring 2023 Early Childhood Advisory Board Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm**

**On Zoom**

**Present:** Deb Gass, Melissa Carlstrom, Heather Edwards, Paige Neal, Kim Freeman

1. What the end of the year looks like:
  - a. We are ending the year with 10 level one students and 2 level two students.
  - b. I have four seniors, one will go on to study Child Psychology, two plan to study Early Childhood Education and may be looking for local work and one will be taking a gap year.
  - c. Two students will be completing the Pre-Apprenticeship program.
  - d. At this point I have 5 students who have signed up to return.
2. What next year could look like:
  - a. The current application numbers for next school year are at 14 students. There is still time for more students to enroll or realize they can make it work in their schedule. Regardless, it is great to see the interest.
  - b. If I have enough second year students I would like all of the dual enrollment classes to come through CCV. Paige remarked that as a student, CCV was easier to work with when it came to accessing and transferring credits.
3. Updates about some of last year's students:
  - a. I have had students who were not interested in working as early childhood educators enter the field locally.
  - b. Students who went on to college to study ECE have reported success and will be continuing to do so.
  - c. Paige has been promoted to full time preschool teacher.
4. Celebrations:
  - a. This year we had two tenth graders who became the first tenth graders to become dually enrolled, and have paved the way for others. They were each able to pass the accuplacer test and have been very successful in class.
  - b. This year we purchased a "Reality Baby" which has given students the opportunity to practice caring for a crying baby. I have since ordered the three other babies that teach about brain trauma, NAS and FAS.
5. Ideas for further improvement/Feedback:

- a. The group agreed that adding current students to our board would be a positive addition.
- b. Heather, Melissa and Deb are all willing to continue our collaboration for student field work next year. We spoke about the challenges and positives of the collaborations. A couple ideas came out of our discussion about the next school year.
  - i. We could have the students tour the different centers this spring.
  - ii. We could have the students “interview” where they would like to complete their fieldwork next year.
  - iii. Next year the returning students will apply to be pre-apprentices so we need to make sure that teachers who mentor them hold the appropriate credentials. A question to be asked to Paula Nadeau is if all mentors will need to take the Mentor training.