ATTENDANCE:

Kristin Gustafson  Chairperson
Jessica Sandnas  Eveleth-Gilbert Center
Kris Edstrom  Mesabi East Center
Jenna Johnston  Two Harbors Center
Angie Pike  Virginia II Center
Bailey Pommier  Quad EHS HB & East Range EHS HB (open)
Cheryl Zillmer  Ely Center
Norman “Skip” Ferris III  Head Start Director
Tracy Sandnas  Head Start Finance and Administrative Assistant

SITES NOT REPRESENTED:

Babbitt Combination Center (open)
Carry Over Parent-Ramona Vitali
Chisholm I-Excused
Community Representative – United Way-Excused
HAP I Center
HAP II Center-(Excused)
Hermantown EHS & Lake County-Excused
Hershelee Morton Carry Over Parent
Hibbing I Center-Excused
Hibbing II (open)
Hibbing III
Hibbing IV Center
Lake County EHS HB/Hermantown EHS HB/Hermantown (open)
Mary Wentland-Carry Over Parent-Excused
Mt. Iron-Buhl Combination-Excused
Northern Tier EHS HB/CHIC EHS HB (open)
Representative from AEOA Board-Excused
Virginia I
Virginia III
Virginia Toddler Center-(Excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER:  The Arrowhead Head Start Policy Council Meeting was called to order by Kristin Gustafson, Chairperson, at 9:37 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at AEOA Virginia, MN in Conference Room 2.
II. **ROLL CALL:** As members individually introduced themselves, roll call was taken showing 6 members present. A quorum was not established. Policy Council By-Laws 4.7(f) was used to conduct business with present members. **Jenna Johnson moved to conduct business with present members, supported by Kris Edstrom. Motion carried unanimously.**

III. **CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014 POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES:** Kris Edstrom moved to approve the February 12, 2014 Policy Council Minutes as written, supported by Cheryl Zillmer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. **CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Norman “Skip” Ferris III read the bus waiver for our Chisholm transportation. The waiver is effective until the end of this year.

VII. **REPORTS:**

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Skip presented the Directors Report. Policy Council members were encouraged to read the report on their own and direct any questions to him. Skip reported on President Obama’s 2015 budget proposal. The President is proposing to increase investments in crucial programs starting with the poorest and most vulnerable children. He also proposes to expand funding for Early Head Start-Child Care partnerships and increase funding for the Child Care and Development Fund as well as increase allocation for Preschool Development Grants and provide capital over 10 years for the President’s Preschool for All initiative. In addition, he proposes to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, raise the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour and extend long-term unemployment insurance. Skip presented House Budget Chair Paul Ryan’s 2015 budget proposal. The Chair focuses most of its cuts on programs serving low-income children and families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, repealing the Obamacare Medicaid expansion and purge funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program. He is also proposing to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act and make it harder for low-income students to get financial aid. The future of our children is bleak, yet the House of Representatives Budget Committee has already passed this budget. Skip also reported on testifying before the House capital Investment Committee regarding Early Childhood bonding with Mike Krebsbach, Parkview Learning Principal, for the Parkview School project. AEOA was presented the Best Practice Award from Minn CAP for our Early Head Start Oral Health Project “Caries Away!”. **Amanda Autio moved to accept the Director’s Report, supported by Meggin McLean. Motion carried unanimously.**


**FY 2013 FEDERAL PRESCHOOL HEAD START GRANT:** This grant in the amount of 1,949,320.00 is for the period from April 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014. The Current Period Actual Expenditures are $424,454.99; the YTD Actual Expenditures are $1,657,205.59; the YTD Encumbrance is $7804.00; and the Balance is $108,305.21. Spending of this grant is on target
with our planned expenditures and projections. This budget was extended by the Office of Head Start due to our program in Cohort 2 of DRS.

**FY 2013 FEDERAL EARLY HEAD START GRANT:** This grant in the amount of $935,685.00 is for the period from April 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014. The Current Period Actual Expenditures are $165,841.33; the YTD Actual Expenditures are $802,821.62; YTD Encumbrance $15,936.13 and the Balance is $48,250.25. Spending of this grant is on target with our planned expenditures and projections. This budget was extended by the Office of Head Start due to our program in Cohort 2 of DRS.

**SFY 2014 MN HEAD START GRANT:** This grant in the amount of $498,651 is for the period from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, the Current Period Actual Expenditures are $48,532.05; the YTD Expenditures are $238,701.45; and the Balance is $1,861.92. Spending of this grant is on target with our planned expenditures and projections.

**CREDIT CARD REPORT:** Skip presented the credit card report. Credit card expenditures and payments were reviewed.

**NOTICE OF AWARD:** Skip presented the Notice of Award for the Grant Extension. Head Start will receive $503,637 plus $5706.00 for training and Early Head Start will receive $228,216 plus $7,085 for training. This grant is an extension for April, May and June for the 04/01/13-06/30/14 grant year. **Kris Edstrom moved to accept the Financial Reports, supported by Jenna Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER REPORT:** None.

**C. AEOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT:** Skip presented a summary of the meeting held February 18, 2014. The agreement is now in place for the Executive and Fiscal Director’s shared positions between AEOA and Kootasca. Energy Assistance received additional funding. Housing Development was the featured program. The Board approved the Chisholm Bus Waiver and the Head Start Wage Comparability Study. **Jessica Sandnas moved to accept the AEOA Board of Directors Report, supported by Angie Pike. Motion carried unanimously.**

**D. MHSA (MINNESOTA HEAD START ASSOCIATION) REPORT:** Skip reported that Gayle Kelly took parents to the Capitol in March. Amanda Autio attended this event. MHSA discussed the EHS/Child Care partnership expansion. One of the requirements is to have 72 kids and we don’t have enough to fulfill that currently. Discussion centered around programs partnering together to apply for these funds. PICA Head Start staff person Audrey Pucket passed away unexpectedly. Skip attended her funeral in Minneapolis. **Kris Edstrom moved to accept the MHSA Report, supported by Angie Pike. Motion carried unanimously.**

**E. PARENT/COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Virginia III**-The class has been making up snow days. They also visited the Police Station and will be attending gymnastics. The Tooth Fairy will be making a visit to the classroom.

**Virginia II**-The Class had a visit from the Tooth Fairy. They will also be visiting the Police Station and attending gymnastics. They are also making May Day Baskets to pass out to the businesses
on the main street. The parents are planning for graduation and Angie Pike will be shooting a video. The class will also be doing something for Easter and having a Luau.

**Eveleth-Gilbert**- The class had a bean planting after reading Jack and The Beanstalk. They are also working on a graduation celebration as many of the students will be attending Kindergarten next year.

**Mesabi East**- The class is hosting a Night at the Museum parent meeting. The Zoo Mobile and weatherman Ben from WDIO will be coming to the classroom. An Ice Cream Social is also being held to honor the “Women” in the student’s life.

**Two Harbors**- The class went sliding.

**Quad EHS Home Base & East Range EHS Home Base**- N/A.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **DRS (Re-Competition) Update**: Skip explained the new positions that will be incorporated in our new grant. Family Support Specialists will be there for families who need more support, not necessarily all families. We will be hosting Family Engagement events in place of Parent Meetings. When the new grant starts, we will be on a five year grant cycle.

B. **SEQUESTRATION**: Sequestration cuts have been restored and we need to bring back 20 children. We are planning to bring back the 20 preschool children through the Home Base option at this time. Funding won’t be available until July 1, 2014.

C. **PARENT ACTIVITY FUND**: Policy Council members decided on the topics class rooms could choose. The two choices are Nutrition and/or Bullying. Each class will get $25.00 to spend as well as 4 weeks to get the activity accomplished.

D. **SCHOOL READINESS**: Skip reported that we are working on updating our goals to match the COR Advantage. We must look at our data as we work towards our goals, and make any changes as needed.

E. **PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PFCE)**: Skip reported our goals are established and we are working on establishing our Action Plans to help us reach our goals.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**- Dave Snyder had to cancel due to a family emergency. This will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

B. **COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)**: Skip presented the 1.3% COLA. The Board is looking at a 3% COLA. **Jessie Sandnas moved to accept the 1.3% COLA, supported by Jenna Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. **MENTAL HEALTH/ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**- Skip invited all members to attend this meeting. Please RSVP to Judy Kelly or Deb Fisher if you can or cannot attend.

D. **NEXT POLICY COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, May 7, 2014**- The meeting will be held at AEOA in conference room 2 in the basement from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**X. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**: Jessie Sandnas inquired about when acceptance would be out for next fall. She will contact Jerry Crittenden. Angie Pike expressed her concern for the blacktop surface on the
playground at the Virginia site. Skip is working on this with Willie Spelts. Angie also inquired about getting a storage unit so play equipment wouldn’t have to be carried to and from the classroom.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Kris Edstrom moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Jessie Sandnas. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Sandnas, Finance and Administrative Assistant
Arrowhead Head Start

Norman E. “Skip” Ferris III, Director
Arrowhead Head Start