

Pinellas County School Readiness Coalition, Inc.
Working for the Success of Pinellas County's Children

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 24, 2005

APPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT

V. James Dickson, Chair; Lounell Britt, Secretary; Diane Brown; Guy Cooley; Lynne Faimalie; Dr. John Heilman; Juanita Heinzen; Ellen Lasher; Ed McBride; Jim Mills; Michael Pachik; Edward Peachey, Vice Chair; Linda Tamanini; Dr. Carol Thomas; Dr. Judi Vitucci

STAFF

Janet Chapman; Merita Kafexhiu; Patty Van Alstine

ABSENT

Le Ann Elliott, Treasurer; Benjamin Shirley

IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Rollins, Ron Vance, Fred Bruneau, Mary Bennett, Judy Scott, Julie Ulibarri, Mona Schuster, Bill Lemen, Paul Runyon, Judy Miller

OFFICIAL RECORDER

Janet Baker; Patty Van Alstine

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Ed Peachey, called the meeting to order at 4:18 P.M.

A. Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chair Peachey, called for approval of the agenda for the January 2005 meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Mills and seconded by John Heilman:

To approve the agenda

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Peachey, called for approval of the December 2004 minutes. A correction was made to remove Linda Tamanini's name from the meeting minutes since she was absent.

A motion was made by John Heilman and seconded by Guy Cooley to:

To approve the December 2004 minutes as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Janet Chapman presented her Financial Report and an update of the number of children that have been enrolled from the wait list. She also presented that during the 2004/2005 audits there were no significant findings. Also, the Partnership and the Partnership Board no longer exist. The Partnership is now called the Office of Early Learning under the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Ms. Chapman also presented basic information on the new Voluntary Prekindergarten Program

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS

A. Executive Committee Report

1) Approval of Executive Director as 401-K Administrator

A motion was made by Guy Cooley and seconded by Ed Peachey to:

Approve Janet Chapman, Executive Director as the agency's 401K Plan Administrator.

The motion passed unanimously.

2) Department of Education Grant

Janet Chapman reported the Department of Education will be posting a grant award for 6 Pre K Specialist positions around the state. This position would be responsible for programmatic oversight of the Voluntary PreKindergarten program and act as a liaison with D.O.E. Their responsibilities will cover multiple counties. The grant amount is approximately \$100,000 and will cover all of the expenses related to this position and its regional duties.

A motion was made by Linda Tamanini and seconded by Judi Vituccit to:

Approve the application for the Grant pending Executive Committee approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

3) Name Change

With the passage of the Voluntary PreKindergarten Bill (HB0001A), the School Readiness Coalitions have been re-named Early Learning Coalitions. The Agency for Workforce Innovation (primary funder) strongly urges all Coalitions to change their name to one uniform identifier, excluding the county segment. The Agency recommends "Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County".

A motion was made by Jim Mills and seconded by Lounell Britt to:

Approve Coalition staff to file documents to change the Coalition's name

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Finance Committee Report

4) Spending Plan Report

The wait list of 3,000 children has almost been eliminated. The Coalition is still projecting excess funds. Initiatives will be proposed to fully expend funds.

5) Amended Budget

The Coalition Administrative Budget was presented as amended. New Even Start Grant funding was added. Minor adjustments were made between line items to ensure all costs could be covered adequately.

A motion was made by Jim Mills and seconded by John Heilman to:

Approve the amended budget as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Service Delivery Committee Report/PECC

6) Vision and Hearing Screening

The Board has long expressed concern that children do not receive regular vision and hearing screening. All Children's Hospital has submitted a proposal to screen 8,000 children for vision and hearing. Alternate funds such as Medicaid will be researched for continuation of the screening project for next fiscal year. The Hospital proposes a cost of \$25 per child for a total project cost of \$200,000. This will be accomplished prior to June 30, 2005.

A motion was made by Linda Tamanini and seconded by Jim Mills to:

Approve the expenditure of funds to provide vision and hearing screening

Judi Vitucci abstained from voting.

The motion passed unanimously.

7) Certificate/Voucher Care – Linda Tamanini presented the Voucher Care Regulation did not require providers to comply with Florida Statutes. The Service Delivery Committee considered the implementation of a standardized agreement that all providers reimbursed through the certificate voucher system would be required to sign and follow. The completion and return of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires was just one of the requirements the Agreement addresses. Implementation is not targeted until July of 2005.

A motion was made by Mike Pachik and seconded by Jim Mills to:

Approve the general form and content Certificate/Voucher Agreement.

8) Data Agreement with School District

Linda Tamanini presented the concept of collecting child specific school readiness data from the School District. Preschools will receive feedback on their student's performance. The project will only address classrooms that participated in the PreK Quality Grant.

Current school readiness data is only reported by total children's performance per county. The Coalition recommends each provider receive the results of the children's aggregate assessments who attended their 4 year old program, upon entrance to kindergarten. This information may be used as learning and technical assistance tool, helping teachers to adapt their curricula to meet children's learning needs.

A motion was made by Jim Dickson and seconded by Linda Tamanini to:

Approve exploring negotiations with the Pinellas County School District to acquire aggregate school readiness scores for PreK Quality Grant providers.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. By Laws Committee Report

9) The Board voted to table the adoption of the Coalition's By Laws until the next Board meeting.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no informational items brought forward.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment from anyone in attendance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.