

Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.
Working for the Success of Pinellas County's Children

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 28, 2005

APPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT

V. James Dickson, Chair; Lounell Britt, Secretary; Le Ann Elliott, Treasurer; Benjamin Shirley; Diane Brown; Guy Cooley; Lynne Faimalie; Dr. John Heilman; Juanita Heinzen; Ellen Lasher; Ed McBride; Michael Pachik; Edward Peachey, Vice Chair; Linda Tamanini; Dr. Carol Thomas; Dr. Judi Vitucci; Gary Cernan; Judith Miller; Anne Sullivan

STAFF

Janet Chapman; Maryann Goodrich; Patty Van Alstine; Lindsay Carson; Bonnie Touchton

ABSENT

Jim Mills; Dr. Calvin Harris

IN ATTENDANCE

Fred Bruneau, Mary Bennett, Judy Scott, Julie Ulibarri, Mona Schuster, Bill Lemen, Paul Runyon, Lucie Malinski, Martha Skelton, Art O' Hara, Bill Lemen

OFFICIAL RECORDER

Lindsay Carson; Patty Van Alstine

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Peachey, called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

A motion was made by Benjamin Shirley and seconded by Dr. John Heilman:

To approve the agenda

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Peachey, called for approval of the February 2005 minutes.

A motion was made by Le Ann Elliott and seconded by Linda Tamanini to:

To approve the February 2005 minutes.

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. She informed that the Early Learning Opportunity Act will be ending July 1, 2005. Many components of that grant will continue. Ms. Chapman also presented basic information on the new Voluntary Prekindergarten Program.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS

A. Finance Committee Report

- 1) Spending Plan Report** - Janet Chapman presented the spending plan. There continues to be an excess of funds. Children are continuing to be enrolled from the wait list.
- 2) Market Rate** – Vice Chair Peachey presented the Market Rate Increase for providers. The Coalition has potentially available funds to impact a 6% increase to providers. This increase would apply to Toddlers through 4 year olds. Vice Chair Peachey presented to the Board to adopt in principle rate increases for Providers effective June 1, 2005, retroactive to include April, May and June to be consistent with funds available.

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

Approve a Market Rate Increase.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Coalition Budget Amendment** - Janet Chapman presented the VPK Start-up funding was to be amended to the Coalition Budget. These funds provide allotments for planning and implementation of VPK. Additional funds will also provide salary and expenses for a VPK Regional Facilitator.

A motion was made by Mike Pachik and seconded by Le Ann Elliott to:

Approve Coalition Budget Amendment

The motion passed unanimously.

4) Executive Director's Authority to Expend Funds

Le Ann Elliott presented the need to Authorize the Executive Director to expend funds, not exceeding \$10,000.

A motion was made by Ed Peachey and seconded by Le Ann Elliott to:

Authorize the Executive Director to expend funds up to the amount of \$10,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion: Ben Shirley mentioned that Executive Director of the ELC of Pasco is proposing a cap of \$25,000. Ed McBride clarified the authorization was for \$10,000 per purchase, not a cumulative cap.

5) The Plan Budget

Janet Chapman and Linda Tamanini presented the revised Plan that included a fiscal impact.

A motion was made by Ben Shirley and seconded by John Heilman to:

Approve the Plan budget as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Service Delivery Committee Report/PECC

6) Plan Approval

A motion was made by Ben Shirley and seconded by John Heilman to:

Approve the Plan with minor change on p. 11.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion: Ed Peachey suggested including an executive Summary of Parts 3 and 4. Ed will provide a sample of a similar format used by WorkNet. Judi Miller asked about specifics of training being offered. She was referred to the ECE Training Committee.

7) VPK Plan Approval – Linda Tamanini presented the Voluntary Pre Kindergarten “patch” to the Coalition Plan.

A motion was made by Ellen Lasher and seconded by Ed Peachey to:

Approve the VPK Plan as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

8) Parent Sliding Fee Scale – Linda Tamanini presented the Federal Poverty Guidelines updated in February 2005; realigning the parent sliding fee scale to not increase fees to

families. A small group of families would actually see a reduction in fees resulting in an collective reduction of about \$29,000.

A motion was made by Ed Peachey and seconded by Lounell Britt to:

Approve the revised Parent Sliding Fee Scale

The motion passed unanimously.

C. By Laws Committee Report

9) Revised Coalition By Laws – Chair Dixon presented the revised By Laws. Revision to the By Laws became necessary to comply with new statute and to differentiate members/non-voting members. Also clarified were Terms of Membership, Sunshine Law and new requirements of the Early Learning Bill.

A motion was made by Ellen Lasher and seconded by Linda Tamanini to:

Approve the revised Coalition's By Laws

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: A chart to identify voting and non-voting members was requested by Judi Vittuci.

D. Membership Committee

10) Report – Ellen Lasher introduced new Board Member, Anne Sullivan of St. Petersburg College. We are still currently out of compliance in our private sector membership. This continues to be an issue for coalitions statewide. Membership Committee will readdress this issue after the Gubernatorial Appointees have been named.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

Juanita Heinzen announced that Head Start will be closing centers at Jasmine Court 1 and 2 effective May 14 due to mandated demolition of the buildings. They are working with CCC to provide interim care for the remaining 6 days of their program. Guy Cooley commented that JWB has provided additional funding to help those families that qualify.

Fred Bruneau announced that Office of Early Learning will be providing training on the VPK provider application next week. Mike Pachik followed by suggesting a completed sample of the application be available on the CCC website. Janet Chapman added that there is not application deadline and there is flexibility in the program start dates as long as the 540 hour requirement is met.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Dixon raised concern about a possible limited number of VPK slots available. Janet Chapman responded that based on the pre-registered providers and families along with 4 year olds currently in the School Readiness Program, we are projected to have enough slots. Final

determination will be made when the Appropriations Committee announces the budget. Guy Cooley presented that currently 1,590 children are pre-registered and there are about 1,800 in subsidized child care that will be eligible. Judith Miller asked if parents are pre-registered for specific schools. Paul Runyon responded that they were unable to track that since providers had not made formal application yet. Chair Dixon also suggested contacting providers to survey their status of participation.

Lynne Faimalie expressed concern that many children who need VPK will be unable to attend due to transportation/ location issues along with selective acceptance by providers. Janet Chapman responded that as reported by DOE, only 3% of students currently entering kindergarten are considered "not ready." Carol Thomas stated that from a classroom teacher perspective, she did not agree. Juanita Heinzen announced that Head Start plans to have a significant role in VPK. She suggested coordinating with the Coalition to provide Public Education targeting low income families. Ellen Lasher offered to assist in the public relations campaign.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Art O'Hara requested that meeting materials be provided for members of the audience. He also expressed his concern that School Age Care is not adequately address in the Plan. He also encouraged all providers to participate in VPK. Additionally, he encouraged everyone to become more involved in the legislative process. Finally, he shared his concern for the children of low income families not being accepted by VPK providers.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 P.M.

Approved by:

V. James Dickson Date