



Board of Directors Meeting
May 3, 2010; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Jacqui Colyer (attended via conference call); Gina Cortes-Suarez; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr.; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Jane McQueen; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney) (attended via conference call)

Board Absentees: Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, President/CEO; Leeana Pena, Board Liaison; Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Roseline Philippe; Pam Hollingsworth; Bethany Sands; Sandra Gonzalez; Diana Lane; Kerry Allen; Nicole Bardin; Teri Carbajal; Jose Hernandez; Melody Thelwell

General Attendees: Doug Blomberg (attended via conference call); Shan Goff, Florida Department of Education; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Ivette Riano, KIDCO; Lissette Rodriguez-Diaz, World Of Kids; Bill De La Sierra; Janette Rosadio, Little Oasis DC & PreSchool; Joan Farr, Miami-Dade County; Aleyda Sosa, Miami Children's Hospital; Linda Pulaski, The Learning Tree; Solange Aurelien, Balls of Fire Academy; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Maria Elena Delgado, AECE, Victoria's Playhouse; Rose Marie Inserni, Children's Forum; Irela Suarez, Watch Me Grow Learning Centers; Michol Guerra, Small Wonders of Miami; Elena Guerra, AECE; Armando Guerra, AECE; Marisel Elias Miranda, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Luis Mechoso, Gibraltar Private Bank; Rosa Casamor, KIDCO; Jane Lindley, AECE; Lillian Marcana, World of Kids Academy; Mireya Veres, Precious Smiles; Andre Aurelieu, Balls of Fire Day Care; Jean G. Barrean, Balls of Fire Academy

I. Welcome and Introductions	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.



- L. Pena called roll and a quorum was established with fifteen (15) voting members.
- O. Verdeja introduced S. Goff from the Florida Department of Education.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 04/05/10.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by C. H. Mogul
 - J. McQueen requested that a change be made to the minutes to reflect her attendance at the April Board meeting.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Executive Committee Report

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja stated that S. Echemendia has conducted a thorough review of the ELC procurement process and reported his findings to the Executive Committee. He is working on some specific recommendations and will then reconvene the Executive Committee. After, the Committee will bring the recommendations to the full Board for approval.
- O. Verdeja stated that as a result of the review of the procurement process, staff recommended and the Finance Committee approved the extension of several contracts for six months. Once the Board approves the new procurement process, staff will release RFP's for those contracts.
- O. Verdeja stated that as part of best-practice recommendations by the audit firm under contract to AWI, a recommendation was made that the ELC review the conflict-of-interest declaration process.
- S. Echemendia stated that he has some specific recommendations that include training for Board members and staff. The Executive Committee will follow up with some specific recommendations for full implementation next year.
- O. Verdeja stated that the Executive Committee presented E. Torres with his evaluation. He scored high and this is the 3rd year he continues to score 10's.
- O. Verdeja stated that in recognition of Provider Appreciation Day which is observed on May 7th, Governor Charlie Christ issued a proclamation in appreciation of the tremendous contributions made by Florida's early care and education professionals. Additionally, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez also issued a proclamation in recognition and appreciation of the work of our local early care and education providers. He realizes that they are true heroes in the education of our young children, so on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, staff and community he thanks them for their contributions.
- N. Seijas presented the proclamation made by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez.



- Y. Johnson presented the proclamation made by Governor Charlie Christ.
- O. Verdeja recognized the group of over 40 early care and education providers who advocated in Tallahassee. This group was led by the AECE. O. Verdeja gave special thanks to L. Carmona-Sanchez.
- E. Torres stated that D. Williams and S. La Villa joined the AECE and the providers on their bus trip to Tallahassee.
- S. La Villa stated this is years worth of work. She personally thanked L. Carmona-Sanchez and M. Delgado in planning this trip. She stated the trip was very successful.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez presented the shirt the group wore to Tallahassee. It reads, 'Ready to learn so I can be ready to earn'.
- D. Williams stated it was a wonderful trip. He had the opportunity to ride in the front of the bus. He was amazed at how prepared the group was. Everyone was taking tests and providing information on our legislators. He stated this recognition was well deserved.
- B. De La Sierra provided handouts to the Board. He stated he doesn't like to be the guy that states the emperor has no clothes. However, that's his makeup. He stated the sale that the Board had just been given has no clothes. He attended the meeting in Tallahassee where at least one third if not half of the time was spent discussing union organization and how they organize the childcare industry in New York. He stated they were able to form an alliance with the government and provide health benefits for the workers. Also, they were able to extract three years of back wages from the childcare operators in New York. He asked if the Board, who fights so hard for the children, thinks they have problems funding programs for the children today and dealing with tons of children who can't get services.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- A. Parrino stated there is a deficit in VPK because of the number of children enrolled. The ELC is estimating 1% which relates to about \$800,000 but it is difficult to determine the exact shortfall. The State must fund every four-year-old that wants to be in this program. The statute allows us to borrow from next year.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042810-01 to authorize the President and CEO to renew and/or execute the following sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - D. Williams moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - A. Eckstein stated he has a conflict of interest with this resolution.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 042810-02 to authorize the President and CEO to renew the following vendor contracts: Becker’s School Supplies, Inc.; Childcraft Education Corporation; Excelligence Learning Corporation (dba Discount School Supplies); Hatch, Inc.; and Kaplan Early Learning Company – Quality Materials Services; Abrams & Company Publishers, Inc.; High/Scope Foundation; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company; Kaplan Early Learning Company; Pearson Education, Inc., Teaching Strategies, Inc.; and The University of North Florida – Curricula Material Services; Scholastic, Inc. – Early Educational Book Supplier; Active Strategy, Inc. – Performance Management and Software Services; Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP – external auditing services; Goldstein, Schechter, Koch, Price, Lucas, Horwitz & Co., P.A. – sub-recipient financial and programmatic auditing services; and Tew Cardenas – legal services.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Motion to approve Resolution 042810-03 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute six- (6-) month contract extensions for the following contracts: Bluejean Software, Inc. – Software Development Services and Support; PC Depot, Inc. – Information Technology Support and Services; Hearing and Speech of Florida, Inc. – Children’s Health Screening Services; and Children’s Forum, Inc. – WAGES Program Support and Career Advisory Services for early care and education providers.
 - N. Seijas moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- F. Hicks stated Bluejean was responsible for the dashboard and quality for the WELS program.

- Motion to approve Resolution 042810-04 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the South Florida Workforce Investment Board’s Florida Back to Work Subsidized Employment Program grant/contract.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- I. Taylor-Wooten asked how employees for this program will be selected.

- R. Beasley stated candidates will go through an interview process should they qualify.

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.

V. VPK Presentation	Shan Goff, Florida Dept. of Education
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- Presentation available on www.elcmdm.org.

- E. Torres stated when participation increases; the tendency is to want to decrease the base student allocation.



- D. Lawrence stated that for 5th year results, these are actually pretty good numbers.
- M. Abety asked if S. Goff knows the percentage of children screened for disabilities.
- S. Goff stated she could provide that information to the Program & Strategy Committee at their next meeting.
- D. Williams asked if these children are 4-year-olds or eligible children in general.
- S. Goff stated these are 4-year-old children.
- D. Williams asked how often these assessments are made by the State.
- S. Goff stated most schools are required to administer ECHOS. She stated they wanted to ensure the assessments were psychometrically sound, testing their reliability and validity.

VI. Program & Strategy Committee Report
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David Williams, Jr. and the Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

D. Williams stated the Program & Strategy Committee had a lively discussion on enrichment programs. The Committee should have a recommendation for the Board by the next Board meeting.

VII. Governance & Bylaws Committee Report
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Alan Eckstein, Esq.

- A. Eckstein stated that in compliance with the bylaws, the changes were sent to the Board at least ten (10) days prior to the Board meeting. He reviewed the marked-up changes.
 - Motion to approve the revised bylaws.
 - D. Lawrence moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by L. Piñeiro.
- E. Torres stated the Governance & Bylaws Committee would have to reconvene soon; as of July 1st all non-voting Board members will become voting members and the bylaws will have to be revised again.
- L. Piñeiro thanked the Governance & Bylaws Committee for all the hard work they've put into revising the bylaws.

VIII. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- Presentation available on www.elcmdm.org.

IX. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- N. Seijas asked for an update on the ELC Foundation.



- Y. Perkins stated that two of the three required Board members have already come on board with the foundation. She stated she had a meeting with another potential Board member. The minute the third Board member comes on board, the foundation can begin fundraising.
- S. La Villa stated that the Program & Strategy Committee had a lively discussion on who the ELC is and what the focus should be. She encouraged Board members to attend meetings frequently.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated S. Goff would be providing more information on VPK the next day, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All Board members are welcome to attend.

X. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.