



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

March 24, 2008

8:00 - 10:00 A.M., Board Room

ATTENDEES: Roderick E. Beasley; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; Dr. Yvonne T. Johnson (Vice Chair); David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Ann Karen Weller; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Dr. Dabney Park; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; Dr. Clarence Jones; Dr. Silvia La Villa; Connie Chappell; Harve Mogul; David Williams, Jr.; Jane W. McQueen;

BOARD ABSENTEES: Sara B. Herald (Secretary); Alan Abramowitz; George M. Burgess; Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez

STAFF ATTENDEES: Walter Harvey (Coalition Attorney); Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Jackye Russell; Melody Thelwell; Alina Soto; Mary Williams; Bethany Sands; Vivian Wright; Teri Carbajal; Nadira Ali; Esther Young; Pam Hollingsworth; Nicole Lopez; Dr. Silvia Palenzuela; Sandra Gonzalez, Fred Hicks

GENERAL ATTENDEES: Gilda Ferradaz, DCF (on behalf of Alan Abramowitz); Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, MDC (on behalf of George Burgess); Maria E. Binelo, Miami Dade County DHS/CDS; Edith Humes-Newbold, MDC/DHS/CDS; Eddie Rivera, AWI; Linda Carmona Sanchez, (A+ Early Learning Center); Modesto E. Abety, The Children's Trust; Nancy Sapiro, MDCPS; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Rick Signori, DCS; Maritza Alonso, MDC; Ramiro Moreno, REM Learning Center; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Manuel Fermin, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade; Matty Loret de Mola, La Petite Academy; Doug Blomberg, WHFS; Gladys R. Montes, CFE United Way; Tessa Villarreal, Villa Learning Center; Shan Goff, DOE; Gilda Ferrador, DCF; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County

- I. Welcome and Introductions..... *Octavio A. Verdeja Jr., Chair*
 - A. Roll Call..... *Nadira Ali*
 - B. Approval of Agenda.....*Octavio A. Verdeja Jr.*

Motion was offered by the Chair to approve the Agenda with the change in item orders. The motion was seconded by Harve Mogul. The vote was 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained.

- c. Opening Remarks *Octavio A. Verdeja Jr.*



The Agenda items are going to be moved around a little bit. Shan Goff will make her presentation right after the Approval of the Minutes then move on to the Resolutions.

II. Approval of Minutes *Octavio A. Verdeja Jr.*

- Motion to approve February 25, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Connie Chappell moved to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Gerald Schwartz. Motion was unanimously approved.

III. VPK Presentation..... *Shan Goff, OEL, DOE*

Originally Agenda item VIII moved to Agenda item III

Ms. Goff explained background information on Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening process (FLKRS), the administration of the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS), the two measures of Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) which are the letter naming fluency and the Initial Sound fluency. Ms. Goff explained the testing and evaluation for Kindergarten readiness.

This screening involves the child calling out 8 letters. An alphabet universe of letters used is (26 upper case & 26 lower case) actually 52 letters.

She spoke about the comparison of VPK children and non-VPK children and 'In Rate' and 'Low' performing Providers.

Ms. Goff closed by mentioning there is a need to develop strategies to increase the number of private kindergarten children participating in the screening. She said that 2007 to 08 and 2008 to 09 Initiatives include revisions to VPK education standards and focus on new training in the area of cognitive development - Math.

Ms. Goff stated the goal is to get 100% of the children (approximately 23,000 in Miami-Dade County) consistently demonstrating and decrease those who are not yet demonstrating.

A Board Member asked why the number of children is only 23,000 children when there 32,000 children are born in the county each year and 85% go to public schools.

Ms. Goff explained that Kindergarten repeaters are not included in the screening because this is focused at first year kindergarteners and a 2% population of children with sever-to-moderate disabilities are also excluded.

Ms. Goff said she would email the Board Member the information on exclusion numbers.

Initial 'sound' testing is more difficult than the 'letters' testing. It is more difficult to teach and more difficult for children to learn, however, there has been improvement statewide.

Mission: To promote school readiness and pre-kindergarten programs thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children.



Kindergarten screening provides Provider, teacher and parents with immediate feedback. This assists the teacher in customizing programs.

She shared that they have evidence that children who participated in VPK did better than children who did not participate in VPK. Non-VPK children may have been in a School Readiness program, or a district program, at home or a regular Pre-K program, but they were not in VPK. Children who only completed 70% of the VPK program out performed non-VPK children. 72% of the children who completed the program were above average, see-say 16 letters or more, compared to 51% of kids who did not participate at all.

Ms. Goff explained that as 'outcome orientated' they look to answer the question of Providers, "However you did it, did you get kids ready for Kindergarten?"

90% of Providers in the state are in the Accountability System. They are concerned with those Providers they know nothing about. 85% of Florida's Providers at the Minimum Rate scored a Readiness Rate of 211 or higher out of 300.

Total number of Providers in 2006-07 was a little over 5,000. 76 Providers benefited with the higher Edel scores. 10 would have been low providers if not for the substitutional scores. The rest were higher performing Providers. The State Board will have to address this policy again.

ELCM-D/M has 860 Providers and about half are at the State average.

2% of children see/say in Spanish but not in English. There is nothing in the law that says they need to be taught in English.

46% could not see/say in English or in Spanish and it is the population we are most worried about. Ms. Goff stated that they need to do more to find and identify these children.

A Board Member commented that what is important and the literature supports the fact that what is important is that a child is literate. A child literate in Spanish will become literate in English. What is a concern is that 46% of the children are not literate in either language.

16% of children in VPK were English language learners. (State wide it's 18%), 6% of VPK children are disabled and 53% of Kindergarten VPK children and 36% of VPK children statewide are free & reduced lunch.

Ms. Goff suggested this is not the best Accountability System. It is in its second year and her guess is that it will continue with the same measurements for perhaps two more years to keep some stability in the system.

IV. Finance Committee Report..... *Yesenia Perkins*

A. Motion to approve Resolution 032408-01 to approve amendment to resolution 022508-02 to add an additional \$500,000.

Motion was offered by David Lawrence who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Yvonne Johnson. The vote was 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained.

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- B. Motion to approve Resolution 032408-02 to authorize the Executive Committee to give approval to the CEO to negotiate a contract(s) with selected vendor(s) from the Request for Proposal for providing Quality Materials and Curriculum.

Motion was offered by Alan Eckstein who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Harve Mogul. The vote was 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained.

V. Nominating Committee..... *Yvonne Johnson*

- A. Motion to approve the re-appointment of Alan Eckstein to the Board of Directors. This position is that of a Private Sector voting member, as required by Chapter 411.01, Florida Statutes. The 2-year term of this position expired on January 31, 2008. The new term will expire on January 31, 2012.
- B. Motion to approve the re-appointment of Jessie Perkins to the Board of Directors. This position is that of a Private Sector voting member, as required by Chapter 411.01, Florida Statutes. The 3-year term of this position will expire on April 30, 2008. The new term will expire on April 30, 2012.
- C. Motion to approve the re-appointment of Dr. Daniel Armstrong to the Board of Directors. This position is that of a non-voting representative of programs for children with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as required by Chapter 411.01, Florida Statutes. The 3-year term of this position expires on April 30, 2008. The new term will expire on April 30, 2012.

Motions were offered by Cindy Lederman who moved their approval. The motions were seconded by Gerald Schwartz. The vote was 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained.

VI. Legislative Advocacy Committee Report..... *Tabatha Cullen*

VII. Program & Strategy Committee.....*David Williams, Jr.*

VIII. Provider Services Committee..... *Hon. Natacha Seijas*

- A. Motion to approve Resolution 032408-03 to ratify the Provider Services Committee Bylaws, Policies and Procedures as recommended by the Providers Services Committee.

Motion was offered by Natacha Seijas who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Silvia La Villa. The vote was 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained.



IX. VPK Presentation..... *Shan Goff*

Moved to item III.

X. CEO Report..... *Evelio Torres*

The CEO Report noted the Paid VPK & School Readiness numbers. He also spoke about the reduction in funding the Office of Early Learning is facing and how the reduction will impact coalitions statewide and in particular how this will impact families.

68% of our families have an annual income of \$19,200. Presently 3.5% (per child) of their income goes for child care costs. Without School Readiness child care funding a typical family will have to spend 50% of their income for the same child care services.

Requested by the Board of Directors at the last Board meeting, the CEO provided the Members with the *number of children receiving subsidized care living in single parent homes.*

XI. Public Comments..... *Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.*

A Provider requested that the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe help the Providers organize and arrange for buses to Tallahassee to show disapproval and disagreement with budget cuts that will directly impact Early Learning.

A Board Member stated that the Coalition cannot and should not assist the Providers. He stated that Providers need to organize themselves, Providers need to rely on one another and take charge themselves. He added that the Coalition is not in the business of organizing Providers nor is it in the business of 'arranging' or facilitating this type of thing. He suggested that as business people, Providers need make their own investment of time, energy and finances to address their the issues that effect them and that it is not up to the Coalition to do this from them. ELC Board Members agreed.

XII. Adjourn..... *Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.*

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