



**ELC Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2023; 9 A.M.
2525 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Meeting ID: 845 9786 4026
Passcode: 417687**

Board Attendees: Matthew Bruno; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Loreen Chant; Jenni Roig; Dr. Lawrence Richie Tandoc; Denisse Barrera; Sandi Bisceglia; Dr. Eileen Fluney; Iris Strachan; Gilda Ferradaz; Chereen Coile; Lisa Taylor; Aaron Slavens; Alfred Sanchez; Mayor Holly Raschein; Dr. Riestra; Rick Beasley; James Haj; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Lynn Maceyras; Laurie Joasil

Board Absentees: Chuck Mohr

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Sandra Gonzalez; Michelle Meilan; Jacqueline Dominguez; Ahmed Mitwalli; Miguel Alfonso; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Anabel Espinosa; Ana Sejeck; Belkis Torres; Ana Rodriguez; Aileen Suazo; Alex Sanchez; Laurie Dunn; Lissandra Curbelo; Iliana Vallejo; Ahmed Mitwalli; Cindy Cabrera; Jose Hernandez; Victor Caballero; Miguel Alfonso, Michele Morgan; Karel Davila; Dessiree Aguilera, Yunely Perdomo;

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; translators

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- A. M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- B. Quorum was established with 21 voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- A. Motion to approve the October 2, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.
 - L. Chant moved to approve the minutes.
 - S. Bisceglia seconded the motion
 - Motion passed unanimously

III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

Chairman M. Bruno congratulated our Board Member James Haj on being recognized by Florida State University as a distinguished alumnus. Since earning a bachelor's degree in education from FSU and an M.B.A. from The University of Miami, Jim has made significant and long-lasting contributions to improving the lives of children and families in Florida. Congratulations, Jim.

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school 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 with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



Rick Beasley recently testified before the U.S. Congress and will share with us a summary of his testimony (he has been notified that he will be asked to speak).

IV. Guest Speaker

Evelio Torres

- Madeleine Thakur, The Children’s Movement of Florida

Chairman M. Bruno to introduced Madeleine Thakur. Mrs. Thakur is president & CEO of The Children’s Movement of Florida. She firmly believes in promoting a strong start for all children and in ensuring robust supports for families with young children and is one of our strongest advocacy partners leading state-level policy efforts aimed at increasing investment in high-quality early learning, health care for children, and parent support.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee Report 10/26/2023

Loreen Chant

Resolutions

- **11062023-01 RFP Early Learning Software**

Authorize the President and CEO to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure early learning software and technology intended for use by both children and educators. The primary objective is to facilitate child learning progress, support teacher instruction, and provide family engagement and support. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract(s) with the selected vendor(s) recommended by the Evaluation Committee and reviewed by the Board Counsel.

- **11062023-02 Professional Development Training**

Authorize the President and CEO to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide professional development training and supports to enhance the education and development of early educators. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract(s) with the selected vendor(s) recommended by the Evaluation Committee and reviewed by the Board Counsel.

- **11062023-03 2nd Budget Amendment**

Approval of the Early Learning Coalition’s 2nd Amendment to the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.



- **11062023-04 FIU Research**

Authorize the President and CEO to enter into a research agreement with Florida International University to conduct a Waitlist, Demographics, and Eligibility Project to collect and analyze data relating to School Readiness access and eligibility for families and children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties in comparison to like counties across Florida.

- L. Chant asked for a motion to approve the resolutions.
 - Motion to approve by Dr. Fluney
 - C. Coile seconded the motion
 - Motion passed unanimously

B. Provider Services Committee Report 10/26/2023

Rick Beasley

Our Provider Services Committee Meeting was held Thursday, October 26, 2023.

The committee held one Provider Hearing at this meeting.

All God's Children Christian Academy – Failure to meet contract minimum threshold

We have several pending hearings. We are waiting for the DCF appeal decision for each of them.

On hold/ Pending Hearings:

- Maranatha Child Development – **pending DCF appeal**
- Excelsior Prep Academy Preschool – **pending DCF appeal**
- Miami Beach Learning Academy – **pending DCF appeal**
- Brickell Heights Preschool – **pending DCF appeal**

October 12th The ELC had the Early Care in Education meeting where the following updates were provided.

The Quality Assurance dept presented on The Curriculum Expansion Project

- The Division of Early Learning (DEL) has provided additional funding for Early Learning Coalitions to reimburse School Readiness (SR) and/or Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) contracted early care and education partners for curriculum and professional development related to that curriculum that is listed on the DEL Approved Curriculums list.
- Early care and education partners who apply for reimbursement agree to be part of the Curriculum Expansion and Implementation Study.



- Purchases must be made between March 29, 2023, through November 17, 2023 and each provider will be reimbursed for a maximum of 2 curriculums. The application is available through the ARPA Web Author Module as well as additional information on our website.

Miami-Dade Public Schools introduced the Transition to Kindergarten initiatives

These initiatives will strengthen the bonds between early learning centers and MDCPS to foster successful transitions to kindergarten.

*Share activities and resources aligned with the FELDS (Florida early learning and developmental standards)

*Provide technical assistance sessions/Lunch and Learn (45 min sessions with Q&A, CEUs are provided by PDI)

*Facilitate parent workshops

*Connect providers with Miami-Dade County feeder pattern schools (schools that that the pre-k students channel to)

Lastly, The University of Florida Lastinger Center presented on New Worlds Reading Program. In this program Any Florida VPK student who is not yet meeting age-appropriate standards according to FAST Star Early Literacy is eligible to receive free books and reading activities. Parents can choose the types of books and the language they prefer (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole or braille). Children will receive a new book and activities in the mail each month for free through the fifth grade.

VI. Fiduciary Training

**Claudio Riedi Esq.
Lehtinen-Schultz**

VII. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

XII. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno

Meeting Dates:

- **Executive Committee Meeting: December 4, 2023; 10 A.M. -12 P.M. via Zoom or in person at the Monroe County School Boardroom located at 241 Trumbo Road, Key West FL 33040**