



ELC Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2024; 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Keys Mosquito Control Building
503 107th St. Gulf, Marathon, FL 33050
Meeting ID: 813 2627 7649
Passcode: 862239

MINUTES

Board Attendees: M. Bruno; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Jenni Roig; Richie Tandoc; Sandi Bisceglia; Dr. Eileen Fluney; Chuck Mohr; Iris Strachan; Gilda Ferradaz; Lisa Taylor; Aaron Slavens; Holly Raschein; Dr. Riestra; Rick Beasley; James Haj; Lynn Maceyras; Dr. Carla Fry; L. Chant; J. Hurst; S. Coronado; C. Coile; Dr. Lawrence

Board Absentee: A. Sanchez; Dr. Barrera

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Sandra Gonzalez; Michelle Meilan; Jacqueline Dominguez; Ahmed Mitwalli; Miguel Alfonso; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Fiorella A. Chrisite; Anabel Espinosa; Ana Sejeck; Belkis Torres; Ana Rodriguez; Aileen Suazo; Alex Sanchez; Laurie Dunn; Lissandra Curbelo; Iliana Vallejo; Ahmed Mitwalli; Andrea Penton; Jose Hernandez; Victor Caballero; Miguel Alfonso; Dessiree Aguilera; Zenaida Gomez; Michelle De la Hoz; Ahmed Mitwali, Pam Maval;

General Attendees: Teri Axford; Alexis Calatayud; Bob de la Fuente; Spanish Interpretation Services

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- Roll Call
 - M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
 - Quorum was established with 22 members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- Motion to approve August 5, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.
 - Dr. Armstrong moved to approve the minutes.
 - R. Beasley seconded the motion
 - Motion passed unanimously

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.



III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

M. Bruno Congratulated Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and board member Dr. Maite Riestra for being awarded an Early Head Start expansion grant that represents 220 additional slots.

This is a huge milestone and a testament to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Riestra and her team. This funding will allow our partners at Miami-Dade County to provide essential services to even more children, helping to lay the foundation for their lifelong success.

M. Bruno reported that Following today's meeting, the board will visit Plantation Key School where board member Lisa Taylor serves as Principal.

IV. Chairman's Partner Spotlight

Matthew Bruno

- Christine Patterson, Inez Martin Child Development Center

V. Chairman's Distinguished Service Award

Matthew Bruno

- Jim Haj was presented with the Chairman's Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Bruno reported that Jim has been an incredibly active and dedicated board member of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, and beyond his work with us, he serves as President and CEO of The Children's Trust in Miami-Dade. Under Jim's visionary leadership, The Children's Trust has become a powerful force for positive change, investing in critical programs that impact the lives of countless children and families.

One initiative that truly demonstrates Jim's commitment is his unwavering support for families is the Families Forward Scholarship program. This remarkable program assists low-income families who don't qualify for the School Readiness Program based solely on income guidelines, yet still face challenges in keeping their children enrolled in high-quality early learning programs. Thanks to Jim's leadership, The Children's Trust has invested tens of millions of dollars into this program, ensuring that these families have access to the support they need. But Jim didn't stop there—he and his team have also worked tirelessly to secure funding from other partners to expand the program's reach, always driven by his deep commitment to lifting up the most vulnerable members of our community.

Jim has also been a staunch advocate on the fiscal cliff issue, a critical challenge that affects so many working families. This issue arises when families earn just enough to lose access to support programs like child care assistance, but not enough to afford the full cost of care on



their own. Jim has brought together community leaders, advocates, and stakeholders to address this issue head-on, working to find solutions that will help bridge this gap and ensure that no family is left behind. His leadership in this area has been truly inspiring and has made a real difference for the families we serve.

On behalf of the Early Learning Coalition, we are deeply grateful for Jim's service on our board, his leadership of The Children's Trust, and most of all, his unwavering commitment to all of Florida's children. His passion and tireless advocacy ensure that every child in our community has the opportunity to succeed.

Jim, it is my distinct pleasure to present you with the Chairman's Distinguished Service Award. We thank you for your incredible service and for always putting children and families first.

VI. Committee Reports

- Finance Committee Report 10/1/2024

Loreen Chant

- **Resolutions**

- **10072024-01- Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for information Technology (IT)**

Authorize the President and CEO to release an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for Information Technology (IT) Equipment.

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.

- L. Chant moved to approve the Resolution
- Dr. Armstrong approved the motion
- I. Strachan seconded the motion
- Motion passed unanimously

- Program Policy and Strategy Committee Report 9/23/2024

Chereen Coile

Early Head Start

- **Resolutions**

- **10072024-02 Updated Early Head Start 2024-2025 Recruitment**



and Selection Plan

Authorize the President and CEO to implement the updated Early Head Start 2024-2025 Recruitment and Selection Plan to include regulations that will be in effect starting October 1, 2024.

- C. Coil moved to approve the Resolution
- L. Chant approved the motion
- Dr. Fluney seconded the motion
- Motion passed unanimously

▪ **10072024-03 Early Head Start 2024-2025 Self-Assessment Plan**

Authorize the President and CEO to proceed with the implementation of the Early Head Start 2024-2025 Self-Assessment Plan.

- C. Coil moved to approve the Resolution
- Dr. Fluney approved the motion
- Dr. Armstrong seconded the motion
- Motion passed unanimously

VII. Guest speakers

Matthew Bruno

- **Teri Axford, Superintendent of Schools, Monroe County Public Schools.** Theresa Axford has been with the Monroe County School District for 33 years. Prior to serving as superintendent, she was the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for the district. She is a key stakeholder and community partner with firsthand knowledge of the strengths and challenges families face in Monroe County.

VIII. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Loreen Chant and Evelio Torres

Updates were provided by Loreen Chant and Evelio Torres. The presentation was shared as a document for the board to review.

IX. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

X. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno



Meeting Dates:

- **Board of Directors Meeting:** November 4, 2024; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. via Zoom or in person at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Headquarters located at 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 210 Coral Gables, FL 33134