



MINUTES

ELC Board of Directors Meeting
February 7, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
True North Classical Academy 8445 Sunset Dr. Miami, FL 33143
Zoom Meeting ID: 935 8915 3664
Passcode: ELC020722

Board Attendees: Matthew Bruno; Daniel Armstrong; Loreen Chant; Chereen Coile; Iris Strachan; Raeann Bacchus; Denisse Barrera; Sandi Bisceglia; Marisol Diaz; Eileen Fluney; James Haj; David Lawrence Jr.; Joycelyn Lawrence; Chuck Mohr; Gladys Montes; Jenni Roig; Aaron Slavens; Alex Soto; Richie Tandoc; Lisa Taylor

Board Absentees: Rick Beasley; Stephanie Scuderi; Mara Zapata

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Miguel Alfonso; Lisney Badillo; Marisleydis Bruguez; Victor Caballero; Lissandra Curbelo; Thalia Daumy; Jacqueline Dominguez; Erika Erched; Anabel Espinosa; Sandra Gonzalez Natalia Gamundi; Jose Hernandez; Fred Hicks; Casie Haines; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Pamela Malval; Dr. Carmen Medrano; Michelle Meilan; Ahmed Mitwalli; Luis Olivia; Sheyla Perez; Ana Rodriguez; Alex Sanchez; Lucy Schrack; Ana Sejeck; Sandrina Seraphin; Belkis Torres; Nevis Valdes; Ileana Vallejo; Matthew Zaldivar; Diana Lane; Kristine Gregory

General Attendees: Tina Ali; Patricia Contreras; Rosa Casamor; Tamara Castellanos; Reva Ceader; Stephanie Clements; Eliete Corts; Beth Davis; Magaly Diaz; Sharon Dodard; Bob Eadie; Bob de la Fuente; Lidimi Fuguet; Priscila K. Hardcastle; Hazrun; Cynthia Hereford; Audrey Hernandez; Patricia Hernandez; Kim Holiect; Harriet Holmes; Alameda Jones; Lakeisha Joseph; Arleen Lambert; Ellen Masters; Steven Munne; Terrie Osman; Antoinette Patterson; Berkis Perez; Lina Perez; Katherine Quinteros; Wilda Ramos; Lorena Suarez; Andera Tovar; Charita Tyne; Silvia Valdes; Maria Villa Cortes; Paula Viquez, Carol Wick; Chiana Williams; Danish Williams; Lisa Williams

Tour of True North Classical Academy

Chereen Coile

A tour was conducted of True North Classical Academy while a video was played over Zoom.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.



- K. Gregory called roll and quorum was established with 19 voting members.
- M. Bruno shared that translation services were not available for the meeting due to technical issues.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- Motion to approve the November 1, 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes.
 - M. Diaz moved to approve the minutes.
 - J. Roig seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno thanked Heather Carruthers for her service to the Early Learning Coalition. Sandy Bisceglia was recommended to Chair the Monroe Advisory Committee.
 - L. Chant moved to approve.
 - J. Haj seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Bruno reported that Chuck Mohr's term is coming to an end and recommended that he serve a second term.
 - S. Bisceglia moved to approve.
 - L. Chant seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Bruno congratulated Board Member Rick Beasley on being honored during Black History Month
- M. Bruno reported on attending Ocean Reef Chamber meeting in Monroe County.

IV. Chairman's Partner Spotlight

Beth Davis /Kids for Kids

- B. Davis presented on the new and innovative things happening at her program (visit <https://kidsforkidsacademy.com/tour-magazine/> for more details)
- B. Davis spoke of the Internship program funded by CareerSource South Florida.

V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

Matthew Bruno

- 12062021-01 – Release of RFPs
Authorize the President and CEO to release the Request for Proposals for the services listed within the background of this resolution including: the contracted agency will design and implement a program guided by the School Readiness Developmental Screening Program using a tiered service delivery model which includes universal and individualized supports.
- 12062021-02 – Bluejean Amendment
Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract C21-03 with Bluejean Software, Inc. for Provider Portal Hosting and Dashboard Services.



- 12062021-03 – EHS Bonus for Childcare Teachers
Approve the “Bonus for Childcare Teachers” policy and procedure and authorize the President and CEO to implement the policy and procedure.
- 12062021-04 – EHS Holiday Payment
Authorize the President and CEO to allow the Early Head Start program to reimburse childcare partners with a non-recurring payment for holidays during the 2021-2022 program year.
- 12062021-05 – SR Plan Amendment Developmental Screening
Authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment for approval to the Florida Department of Education’s Division of Early Learning, for updates to the Developmental Screening Policy
- Resolutions were presented as a block
 - L. Chant moved to approve.
 - C. Coile seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

B. Finance Committee Report

Loreen Chant

- L. Chant stated that the Finance Committee met on January 28, 2022 and approved the following resolutions:
 - 02072022-01 RFP Public Awareness and Outreach
Authorize the President and CEO to release an RFP, (Request for Proposal) for Public Awareness and Outreach campaign.
 - 02072022-02 Amended Budget FY 2021-2022
Approval of the Early Learning Coalition’s Second Amendment to the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.
 - 02072022-03 TCT Grants Renewal
Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, execute, and receive funds from The Children’s Trust.
 - 02072022-04 Provider Rate Increase
Approve the Early Learning Coalition’s Provider Rate Increase effective November 1, 2021, and authorize the President and CEO to implement the increased rates.
- L. Chant asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.
 - M. Diaz moved to approve.
 - J. Roig seconded motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

C. Advocacy Committee Report

Alex Soto

- E. Torres delivered the Advocacy Committee Report
 - Market rates are depressed in certain areas. This bill would correct that
 - Amend School Readiness criteria for working families – use state medium income instead of Federal Poverty Level



- E. Torres asked the Board to approve the 2022 Advocacy Priorities.
 - M. Diaz moved to approve.
 - C. Coile seconded motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

D. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Loreen Chant

- L. Chant acknowledged the work of the committee, Carol Wick and Coalition team.
- Seven priority initiatives have been Identified
 - Target high areas
 - Increase enrollment
 - Increase awareness
 - Enhanced services to children with special needs
 - Enhanced services for infant and toddlers
 - Support partners
 - Parent engagement
- E. Torres noted that an action plan for each priority initiative has been developed and each priority has been assigned to a committee. Also thanked L. Chant for her work in Strategic Planning.

E. Program, Policy & Strategy Committee Report

Gladys Montes

- G. Montes reported that there were two resolutions to pass.
 - 02072022-05 EHS Self-Assessment – Belkis Torres
Approve and authorize the President and CEO to submit the Early Head Start Self-Assessment Report and Action Plan with the Early Head Start grant application and implement the Action Plan.
 - 02072022-06 EHS Recruitment and Selection Plan – Belkis Torres
Approve and authorize the President and CEO to implement the Early Head Start 2022-2023 Recruitment and Selection Plan.
- G. Montes asked the Board to approve the two EHS Resolutions.
 - M. Diaz moved to approve.
 - C. Coile seconded motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

F. Provider Services Committee Report

Rick Beasley

- Report was delivered by A. Sejeck, the Provider Services Committee met on December 16, 2021 and reviewed the following items:
- The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2022 legislative agenda, includes expanded workforce initiatives, support for equitable provider reimbursement rates, and increased eligibility for Florida KidCare.



- The Coalition has proposed strategic initiatives to help child care partners build a resilient infrastructure. Initiatives include:
 - Help finding resources during difficult times
 - Support in retaining high-quality staff
 - Assistance in understanding the Coalition’s contract
- The Early Educator Internship Program launched in November 2021 and a second cohort is projected to launch in February 2022.
 - Potential early learning programs in Florida City, Hialeah, Little Haiti and Monroe County will be selected to host second cohort of interns.
 - The Early Educator Apprenticeship Program application has been submitted and a response from the Florida Department of Education is expected in early 2022. It is projected that there will be 25 participant slots available for the program.

G. Audit Committee Report

Mercy Castiglione

- Watson Rice audit was carried out. There were no findings. M. Castiglione thanked staff and Board for support.

H. EHS Policy Council Report

Maria Soto

- Report was delivered via video recording.

I. Monroe Advisory Committee

Sandi Bisceglia

- S. Bisceglia thanked the True North Classical Academy for the tour.
- S. Bisceglia reported that she addressed Monroe County Public Schools in November 2021 and shared with them the Early Care and Education centers in Monroe and Coalition Service Centers. She has also attended chamber meetings to promote the ELC programs in Monroe
- S. Bisceglia worked with Getting The Attention media to promote Coalition programs in Monroe. Getting The Attention media also shared their 2021 media report and plans for the future.
- S. Bisceglia shared that the Monroe Needs Assessment is still being collected.
- S. Bisceglia thanked Heather Carruthers.
- Announced the next Monroe Advisory Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 1 p.m.

VII. Community Report

Evelio Torres

- E. Torres shared a report “Addressing the impact of COVID” – the Coalition has tried addressing these and have done so effectively
 - Strategies for mitigating the impacts of COVID
 - Reduce the rate of closures
 - Assist the ECE workforce



- Modify subsidy reimbursement and payment policies
- Improve coordination of the ECE sector
- Integrate data system across providers
- E. Torres reported on the proposed Florida Senate funding increase for VPK 2,486 to 3,294 per child
- E. Torres shared the 2022 Coalition Theme: “Data Privacy and Managing with Data”. This initiative is being spearheaded by Dr. Fred Hicks.
- E. Torres reported the Advocacy Committee Report and the bills that are being tracked for 2022
 - HB1199
 - HB1299
 - HB1319
- E. Torres presented the Best Practices in Inclusive Early Childhood Education (BPIECE) Support Services. This program helps Early Care and Education Partners understand and implement best practices for inclusive services in order to access the higher School Readiness reimbursement rate when children with special needs are being served. Graduates of the program were recognized and congratulated.

VIII. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

- Board Member J. Roig asked if a report of VPK Enrollment by zip codes could be provided. She noted that January enrollment numbers were low.

IX. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno